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GLEANINGS

OF

A WANDERER,

IN

VARIOUS PARTS OF

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, & NORTH WALES.

MADE DURING AN EXCURSION

IN THE YEAR 1804.

ILLUSTRATED WITH VARIOUS ENGRAVINGS,

FROM THE

ORIGINAL DRAWINGS OF THE AUTHOR.

I pity the man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba, and cry 'Tis all barren—and so it is; and so is all the world to him who will not cultivate the fruits it offers.

STERNE's *Sentimental Journey.*

Knowledge and improvement are to be got by sailing and posting for that purpose but whether *useful* knowledge and *real* improvements, *is all a lottery*——and many a footstep the inquisitive traveller has measured to see sights, and look into discoveries; all which, as Sancho Pancha said to Don Quixote, "they might have seen dry-shod at home."

STERNE.

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1805.

GLEANINGS OF A WANDERER.

CHAP. I.

OF YORK.—ITS CATHEDRAL.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—WALKS.—HISTORY, &c.—BOROUGHBRIDGE.—ITS MANUFACTURES.—ANTIQUITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.—LEEMING-LANE.—CATTERICK TOWN AND BRIDGE.—GRETA BRIDGE.—PICTURESQUE SCENERY.—ROKEBY.—THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS HOW CHARMINGLY LAID OUT.—ROAD TO BROUGH.—YORKSHIRE.—HISTORICAL FACTS.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, &c.

So much has already been said of York, and its magnificent cathedral, that little, to be accounted new or interesting, remains for me to glean, and offer to my readers; unwilling, however, wholly to pass over this ancient city in silence, I shall briefly state a few particulars respecting its buildings, &c. and then pass onward towards the more northern and less frequented parts of the kingdom. As the first and principal object of curiosity to a stranger who visits York, is the cathedral, I shall begin with saying a few words of that ancient and truly-noble structure, which in every part is regular and beautiful, as imagination can conceive, and is generally esteemed the finest building of the kind in England, not even Lincoln-Minster excepted. In length, it is five hundred and twenty-four feet; across the aisle, two hundred and twenty-two; on the west front, one hundred and nine feet; and on the east, one hundred and five; the former being adorned by two towers supported by a gothic arch, surmounting a window of most exquisitely painted glass. In the interior of the building a stone screen of curious workmanship divides the choir from the body of the church, over which there is a handsomely-ornamented and fine-toned organ. In the southern end there is a window of a circular form, painted to represent the rich colour of marigolds, which when the sun's rays fall upon the bright and glowing colours, displays a wonderfully-beautiful and luminous appearance. On each side of the choir are rows of pews, with heavy carved wooden fronts, which render them dark and gloomy, and effectually screen from observation all who sit

there. Before these are stalls for the Prebendary and others of the clergy, thirty in number, composed of marble, and ornamented by pillars of alabaster. The ascent to the altar is by sixteen steps of marble, and the floor of the whole church is composed of the same material.

The Chapter-House, accounted one of the noblest specimens of Gothic architecture, is of an octagon form; in diameter no less than sixty-three feet, and sixty in height, yet without a single pillar to support its roofs which is curiously carved and has been once richly gilt, but time which bringeth all things to decay, has tarnished its lustre, and almost totally destroyed the former splendour of its appearance.

In the vestry-room are several antiquities worthy of notice, and amongst them an elephant's tooth, in the form of a drinking horn, which Ulphus, one of the Northumbrian Lords, carried to York at a time when he had reason to believe his sons would disagree about the distribution of his lands at his decease, and filling with liquor, drank off, as a testimony of his having made over all his estates to the use of the church, a donation doubtless very cordially welcomed, and which now yields a considerable revenue—they are termed in the records *Terra Ulphi*.

From the top of the towers, and from the roof of the cathedral, the prospect over the city, and adjacent country, is extremely beautiful; woods, hills, and fertile meadows, villas, gardens, villages, and rich enclosures, appear immediately beneath the eye, and altogether form one of the most extensive and charming landscapes that can well be imagined.

Besides the Minster, there are several other handsome churches in York, but none of them meriting a particular description. In ancient times, this city contained a greater number of religious houses, than any other in England, amongst which was the abbey, as it was called, a large building dedicated to the Virgin, situated outside the gate named Bootham; but little of it now remains, and that little, exhibiting no traces of uncommon grandeur. It was built in the reign of William Rufus, and so richly endowed, that at the suppression of religious houses its annual revenue amounted to upwards of 2000l. sterling. By the same Prince, an hospital for the poor was erected, which also had a large revenue, but it too was destroyed at the Reformation.

The Ouse, which runs through the centre of the city, is usually covered with vessels of considerable burden, and along its northern bank, a broad level walk extends above a mile, adorned by rows of trees, and forming an agreeable and convenient place of recreation for the citizens: it is not, however,

kept in such nice order, as it merits, nor is it the frequent resort of persons in genteel life; the cause of which, may readily be attributed to its being left in disorder, and like other public walks in large towns, the haunt of persons of the very worst kind, whose conversation and behaviour too frequently afford occasion for disgust, and tend to banish from the place intended as a convenience to the citizens, all decent and well-disposed persons above the lowest order of the people. A bridge of five arches, connects the two sides of the city, but its appearance is greatly injured by an old ugly pile, left standing at one of its ends, in which debtors are confined, and almost, it may be added, excluded from every breath of fresh air.

The castle, which was once considered a place of no little importance, has within these few years been repaired and beautified, and is now converted into a prison for criminals and debtors, containing within its spacious walls, commodious halls for the trials of prisoners at the assizes, a chapel, and a large airy yard, with all other requiste accommodations.

The mansion house, a respectable-looking building, was erected in the beginning of the last century, and is the residence of the Lord Mayor while in office, to whom only, excepting the Chief Magistrate of the metropolis, belongs the title of *Lord Mayor:* near to the mansion house stands the Guildhall, a heavy Gothic structure, in which all corporation affairs are transacted.

The theatre is tolerably large and decently fitted up; but the assembly room, though highly extolled by many persons and when open, usually crowded with elegant fashionables, is by no means deserving of praise; its general appearance, both within and outside, being neither well-proportioned, nor handsome, nor preserved in proper order.

York is a place of little trade, and its manufactures which are chiefly confined to gloves, shoes, and some steel articles, are not carried forward with much spirit, nor do they afford employment for a great number of hands. It is, however, the occasional abode of many respectable, affluent, and genteel families, is a great thoroughfare to the North, and during the race-weeks (there are two meetings, little inferior to Newmarket held every year) and assizes, the city is crowded with company, and much gaiety, and a great variety of amusements, are then to be partaken of. There are three weekly markets, several annual fairs, and many elegant shops in York, which has long been justly accounted the metropolis of the North, and famed for genteel society, as well as great gaiety, also for several capital boarding-schools for young ladies and one for those educated in the Catholic persuasion, which is under the

direction of professed nuns, and was established during the reign of James IId. since which period it has continued in high repute.

From Richard IId. York received its charter, and is a county of itself, extending over a considerable district, and distinct from the three ridings. It sends two members to Parliament, who are chosen by the freemen at large, and enjoy the privilege of sitting next the representatives for the city of London on the Privy Counsellors bench, on the first day of a new meeting of the Senate.

Of the name or quality of the founder of this ancient city, no certain information can be now obtained, nor can the origin of its own name be traced with certainty; it was however, it is known, a favoured residence of the Emperor Severus, during his wars with the Caledonians, and also the place of his decease. Constantius Chlorus, the father of Constantine the Great, also died in York, and by the legion then in garrison the latter was proclaimed Emperor.

When the Romans quitted Britain, York suffered most severely by the depredations of the Scots and Picts; and after the arrival of the Saxons, it sustained several sieges and was taken by them, but not till they had lost their leader Osrick, King of Northumberland, who was slain in attempting to force one of the gates, and with him a considerable portion of the army. From that period it underwent a variety of changes, was stormed and taken by the Danes, many of the inhabitants cruelly massacred, and the city garrisoned by the conquerors, who during several years maintained their station in defiance of all the efforts of the Saxons, till Athelstan, more potent or more fortunate than the other leaders, drove them from their different holds, and subdued those who remained in York, without much bloodshed or difficulty. At the Conquest, this city was considered a place of much consequence, its castle was rebuilt, and the citizens, though reluctantly, were obliged to acknowledge and obey the government of the Norman hero. Again, however, their former masters the Danes having effected a landing in England, marched towards York, and with the greatest fury stormed the castle; upon which occasion, the timid or faithless garrison set fire to the houses in the suburbs, and soon beheld the city in flames, and the gates opened to the invaders, who once more took possession of the place, but did not long maintain their hold; for William, then at London, hearing the intelligence, marched instantly a powerful army to the North, and speedily obliged the Danes to retire in the utmost confusion and dismay. From that time till the civil wars betwixt Maud and Stephen threw the kingdom into confusion, York enjoyed a tolerable

share of tranquillity; but the Demon of Discord having again disturbed its peace, a great part of the city, with its magnificent cathedral, was reduced to ashes. In the subsequent reign, both were began to be rebuilt, and until the æra of Cromwell's usurpation, nothing remarkable occurred to injure the prosperity, or disturb the peace of York, nor has it since that period, when it underwent a siege, and was taken by his army, suffered materially from any cause whatsoever, and is now, though not a handsome city, one, which in point of gaiety, convenience in respect to all the articles of luxury and good living, is inferior to few in Britain, after the metropolis.

The palace of the archbishop, about three miles below the city, is charmingly situated on the banks of the Ouse, and is a large handsome pile of building, surrounded by extensive pleasure-grounds, tastefully and beautifully laid out, and preserved with the nicest care. There is a noble Infirmary, liberally supported by voluntary contributions, near to the city, into which patients from all parts of the county are admitted and attended by proper medical practitioners, until they recover from their disorders.

Having viewed all I considered worthy of particular observation in York, and being anxious to proceed upon my long, and, as I hoped it would prove, agreeable journey, my travelling companion and I set forward on our route, soon after breakfast on the 6th of June, determined to be satisfied with whatever accommodations we were able to procure, to see all that our time admitted of, to make our day's journies short or long, as inclination or convenience allowed of, and by avoiding all murmurings at the weather, indifferent accommodations, bad roads, or those numberless little causes of discontent, which sour the temper, and render what is undertaken with a view to pleasure and instruction, a source of pain and constant fretting to many very worthy persons, who make no reasonable allowance for the difference betwixt their own comfortable and splendidly furnished mansions and an ordinary inn, where neither cleanliness, convenience, nor quiet, can possibly be so carefully attended to, as in a private house, where there are servants accustomed to regularity and in sufficient numbers, to preserve each article of furniture, and every apartment, in the most perfect order; in short, as the purpose of our tour was entirely for health and amusement, we resolved to suffer ourselves to be as seldom out of humour as possible, and to view whatever fell under our observation, if not always with perfect satisfaction, at least, with unprejudiced and impartial eyes.

From York to Hammerton Green, an insignificant little village on the road to Boroughbridge, the face of the country is rich

and fertile, and continues to wear in general the same appearance from the above-named cluster of wtetched houses (where we merely stopped to refresh our horses and servants) to the last-mentioned small town, which contains but little to gratify curiosity, or induce a stranger to remain long in it, unless he happens to be partial to the accommodations of a good inn, of which there are two in the place, where travellers usually find every convenience and as good living as can be desired. Boroughbridge is a great thoroughfare, being situated upon the northern road, and the point at which the one leading by way of Newcastle, and by Carlisle, separate. It is not large, nor in any manner handsome; but it has a clean neat appearance, and the fields adjoining the river Yare are extremely pleasant, and afford a charming walk for those who are inclined to ramble about during their stay there. Annual races are held upon an extensive piece of ground in the vicinity of the town, but they are seldom well attended: there is also a good weekly market and some fairs yearly for cattle; and a manufacture of stuffs, linseys and coarse cloths, is carried on with tolerable spirit.

At the northern extremity of the town, there is a handsome stone bridge across the river, and in a field, not far from thence, are four huge stones, placed at equal distances, supposed to have been set up by the Romans, to denote its being a point where roads united, or more properly by some imagined, to have been erected by the Druids, as the Romans usually inscribed theirs.

In the neighbourhood of Boroughbridge, some Roman antiquities have on different occasions been discovered; and at a short distance from the town, a bloody combat was decided in the reign of Edward IId. in which the English army were material sufferers, and above two thousand of their best troops, besides a number of ecclesiastics, were slain upon the field. The general appearance of the surrounding country is fertile and agreeable, but nothing peculiarly interesting in the scenery, indeed from thence to Leeming Lane, a stage of eleven miles, at the end of which we found very good accommodations, at a single inn where we remained the night, and at an early hour next morning pursued our way, along an excellent road, and through a pleasant well-cultivated tract of country, adorned with some pretty seats and comfortable farm-houses, to the little town of Catterick (or cataract, its real name) a poor mean-looking place, containing neither public nor private buildings of any note, and not even a good inn; most travellers, therefore, pass onwards without stopping, to an excellent house at the distance of two miles further, situated at the end of the Bridge across the river Swale, which passes by the town, and joins

the Yare, not far from Boroughbridge. Near Catterick there are annual races held, but the ground is ill calculated for the purpose, and the meetings are seldom great. It has also a weekly market and some tolerable fairs. Having partaken of a comfortable breakfast, and, whilst the horses were resting, enjoyed a very agreeable stroll along the banks of the river, we proceeded onwards to Greta Bridge, a distance of twelve miles, the country upon both sides of the road presenting many rich and extensive views, in admiring which, we were so fully occupied, that we had completed our stage ere we imagined we had travelled half the distance.

Alighting at the inn, upon the southern bank of the Greta, we ordered dinner, and bespoke accommodations for the night; then sallied forth to view the charming scenery we were told adorned the sides of the river, a short way from the inn, and which our landlady informed us every body who visited it, was charmed with. Though far from confident that what afforded so much gratification to every body would be equally pleasing to us, we walked onwards along a pretty meadow, and on reaching the river's side, entered a woody dell at once romantic, picturesque, and beautiful, diversified by piles of rocks, intermixed with various sorts of trees, sometimes abruptly rising from the water's edge, at others receding in a countless variety of forms, and leaving barely sufficient breadth at their bases for a winding path, close to the margin of the thundering stream, which pours with great rapidity and noise amidst the broken crags and loose stones that impede its progress, foaming and dashing its spray high up in air with fury inconceivable. Proceeding forwards we perceived the heights on either side, extending wider and wider, until they form a sort of amphitheatre, when suddenly approaching closer, they continue to bound the river in a similar manner to that above described, for the distance of two miles at least. Charmed with a scene so suited to our tastes, we wandered long amongst the rocky precipices and close-embowering trees; then seating ourselves upon a ledge which overhung the river, we continued, until roused by a summons to return to dinner, contemplating the various shades of the surrounding woods, the grey and moss-grown cliffs, which boldly reared their heads on every side, and watched the "bright trembling of the waters" with unspeakable gratification and delight. Returning to the inn we found a comfortable meal served up for us in an apartment, the windows of which overlooked the river, there silently and sweetly winding along the vale, as if relieved from all its turbulence and disquietude, in escaping from the rocky channel we had lately seen it hastening to quit for ever; but like the events which occur

in life's strange chequered scene, the calm it then enjoyed was but the momentary passage to one of double turmoil and disturbance; its waters having scarcely flowed beneath the arches of the bridge, close to the corner of the inn, when rocks and heaps of stones again impeded their progress, and as far as the eye could reach, they were seen pursuing their course with noisy and impetuous violence.

Having finished our repast we were preparing to repeat our visit to the lovely glen which had so charmed us a short while before, when upon being informed we could have liberty to view the house and beautiful grounds belonging to Mr. Morritt, at Rokeby-Hall, curiosity prevailed over all other considerations, and we joyfully followed our conductor along the noble park, where the taste displayed in the arrangement of the trees, their lofty and majestic appearance, and the fragrant scent of numberless aged thorns in full blossom, contributed to render the walk most truly pleasing.

The house, though seated on a rising ground, commands but a little view of the delightful country which for many miles surrounds it; nor does its outward appearance, though extremely neat and genteel, strike the eye of an observer with any idea of magnificence or grandeur. Its interior is handsomely ornamented, and the hall decorated with several very fine busts and various antiquities; it not, however, being my intention to describe minutely either fine houses, superb furniture, or many of the magnificent articles which all who are possessed of wealth, and have a taste for luxury, may purchase, I shall not enter on a particular description of the apartments at Rokeby, which to many of my readers would afford but little gratification, and to myself not the least portion of pleasure; suffice it to say, the mansion is genteely and handsomely fitted up, and contains several spacious apartments, a large library filled with a valuable collection of books, and many antiquities of various descriptions.

Much pleased with what we had already seen at Rokeby, we hastened to take a survey of the grounds, before the shades of evening had obscured their beauties from our sight; and proceeded by a winding walk through the plantations to the banks of the river, which we again beheld with violence raging amidst broken rocks, and by the whiteness of its foamy waters forming a charming contrast to the deep shades of the woods, thickly covering its steep and rugged sides, which at some distance from the house are united by a rustic bridge, near which there is a summer or banquetting-house, which our conductor told us was singularly and beautifully fitted up, but as we did not gain even a peep at the interior, we could not form a judgment on its tastefulness or elegance, and its outward

appearance bespoke nothing either uncommon or beautiful. Having wandered through the sweetly-winding walks along the margin of the river, until twilight shut the lovely prospect from our ravished eyes, we returned once more to the inn, and, after spending some time in chatting over the pleasures of the day, and anticipating much future gratification in the prosecution of our tour, we retired to rest, and early next morning proceeded towards Brough, first passing through the ancient, but now insignificant village of Bowes, a place once deemed of some importance, being a Roman station, and having a castle of considerable strength, now fallen to decay, supposed to have been erected in the time of the Emperor Severus; the country around it wears a dreary aspect, and gradually becomes more bleak and uncultivated, as it approximates to Stainmoor, a wide and dismal waste upon the confines of Westmoreland. Of Yorkshire, however, ere we quit its boundaries, I must stop to say a few words, and as briefly as possible inform my readers, it is a large, a rich, and beautifully-varied tract of country, divided into three districts, commonly termed Ridings, (or *Trithings*, Thirds, as they were originally called by the Saxons) the air and soil of which differ considerably, producing plentiful crops of grain in each, and the finest sheep-pasture. The rivers, of which there are many, abound in various kinds of fish, and there are several medicinal springs in the county, whose properties have been long known. Harrowgate is the most frequented, and in the summer season it is usually crowded with visitors from all parts of the United Kingdoms; consequently, it is a place of great gaiety, indeed it may more properly be said of dissipation and expence.

The manufacture of woollen cloths is carried on to great extent in Yorkshire; and in general it is a cheap, plentiful and agreeable county, the residence of many opulent and respectable families, and also of as good farmers as any England can boast of.

Amongst the eminent characters whom Yorkshire has produced, I must not omit to mention the name of Tillotson, the celebrated Archbishop of Canterbury, a pious and learned prelate, whose writings, though now not generally admired, or even read, have been with great justice much esteemed, and his character, both in public and private life, highly respected and revered. He was born at Bradford, about the year 1630, and, after passing some time at the free-school of his native place, he removed to Cambridge, where his studies were completed; and at the Restoration, he obtained a valuable living in Suffolk, whence he went to London, and in process of time was made Dean of Canterbury, a situation equal to the height of his unambitious views, and which with much solicitation he was

prevailed upon to resign, and accept of the Metropolitan See, upon the condition of being permitted to resign his high station whenever the peace of the church was finally settled. A sudden attack of the palsy, however, ended his days before the stipulated period, and he quitted the world at the age of sixty-five, regretted, respected, and esteemed, as one of the most perfect human characters, as well as excellent divines. The famous Dr. Radcliffe, the founder of the Radcliffe Library at Oxford, was also a native of Yorkshire, as well as the late Archbishop of Armagh, Sir Richard Robinson, a noble-minded liberal prelate, whose memory will long be remembered in the sister kingdom with respect and highest reverence. In 1765 he was appointed to the Primacy of Ireland; and, during his stay in that country, he expended a large sum in beautifying and rendering the Palace more commodious, and in contributing to the general welfare and happiness of all around him. The town, which he found in a ruinous state, he almost rebuilt entirely at his own expence, erected a school upon an admirable plan, built several churches, contributed largely to the establisment of an infirmary, endowed a public library, ornamented the market-house, and in short, spared neither trouble nor expence to promote the benefit and comfort of the inhabitants of Armagh and its vicinity. In 1777 he was created Baron Rokeby, of Rokeby, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and in 1794, after a life spent in the practice of every virtue, and deeply-regretted by his numerous friends and acquaintances, he died at Clifton, near Bristol, at an advanced age.

Were it consistent with the plan of this work to enter into a detail of all the eminent and worthy characters who have flourished in the world, and have owned the County of York as the place of their nativity, I could with ease swell into an enormous size, the volume now presented to my readers; but as I never meant to offer them any thing beyond the gleanings of a wanderer, who in laying the same before them wishes only to give satisfaction to whoever deigns to glance his eyes over these pages, I shall still adhere to my first intentions, and merely upon occasions present them with a few brief sketches of the lives of men of eminence, now sunk into the silent grave, whose characters have borne the test of time, and who have proved themselves a credit and an honour to whatever part of the empire they belonged; I therefore shall at present bid adieu to Yorkshire, and its numerous respectable inhabitants, and proceed to Brough, a small town on the confines of Westmoreland.

CHAP. II.

BROUGH.—ITS ANCIENT CASTLE.—BY WHOM REBUILT.—APPLEBY.—THE BRIDGE.—THE CASTLE.—APPROACH TO PENRITH.—THE TOWN, ITS PLEASANT SITUATION. CHURCH.—HISTORY.—EMINENT CHARACTERS.—WESTMORELAND, &c. &c.

ASCENDING the dreary heights of Stainmoor, we at length arrived in view of an extensive and well-cultivated vale, in the midst of which the little town of Brough is seated, which, though formerly a place of considerable importance, is now no more than a very ordinary village, the residence of few persons beyond the lowest orders of society, and to all appearance neither in a flourishing nor increasing state. The inn, however, is a tolerably good one, and the people who keep it civil and obliging. The spinning of worsted and knitting of stockings employs a great number of the inhabitants. There is a weekly market and some annual fairs at Brough. Its castle, once esteemed a place of strength, was consumed by fire in 1522, but in the following century, it was chiefly rebuilt by the Lady Anne Clifford, and some of its walls are yet pretty entire.

From Brough to Appleby, (the county-town of Westmoreland) the road is excellent, and the views on either hand extensive and agreeable, though in some parts rather destitute of a sufficient quantity of wood; approaching nearer to the town, they begin to wear a richer aspect, and the vicinity of Appleby may, upon the whole, be accounted very pleasing to the eye of a traveller.

Though, as I have already said, this is the county-town and the place where the assizes are held, Appleby is but of little importance, and contains few buildings worthy of a moment's notice; no manufactures of any consequence, and scarce a single shop of even a tolerably shewy exterior. The bridge across the river Eden stands at the entrance into the town; it was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a period when durability was more attended to than elegance and lightness of appearance, of course it is far from possessing a portion of either. The town-hall is large and commodious, and there is a good free-school in the town, endowed by a Bishop of Carlisle, above a century ago; also a charity-school, and an hospital for poor widows, founded by Lady Anne Clifford, in which twelve aged females and a governess are decently supported.

Upon a rising ground, at the upper extremity of the town, stands Appleby-castle, now the property of the Earl of Thanet, agreeably situated in the midst of groves of lofty trees, and nearly surrounded by the Eden, a sweetly-flowing stream, which issues from a hill upon the borders of Yorkshire, and, gliding past Appleby and Penrith, falls into the Solway Firth, a few miles from the city of Carlisle. Near to the western extremity of the castle, but not connected with the building, stands a high square tower, defended by an outer wall and a deep ditch, almost entirely surrounded by luxuriant woods, and presenting a very picturesque and venerable appearance. The castle is in perfect repair, and we were told contains some spacious apartments.

Appleby is governed by a mayor, recorder, &c. and sends two representatives to Parliament. It has a good weekly market for all sorts of provisions, and its corn-market has long been accounted amongst the best in the North of England.

While the Romans held possession of this kingdom, Appleby was deemed a station of considerable importance; but a variety of causes have contributed to lessen its consequence in later times, and force it to wear its present dull appearance. By Henry I. it was gifted with several extraordinary privileges, which his successors aftewards confirmed: but too near the boundaries of Scotland to escape the ravages of that nation, during the days of rapine and contention, it sustained at different times great injury by fire and plunderers; and in 1598 the chief part of the inhabitants were carried off by the plague, since which period it has gradually declined in size and general appearance.

As there was little to attract our notice, or detain us long at Appleby, we proceeded on our way to Penrith, as soon as the men and horses were refreshed and rested; and as we drew near to the end of our day's journey, we became at every moment more enraptured with the beauty, richness, and diversity of the surrounding landscape—woods, farms, enclosures, filled with herds of cattle, or covered with the most luxuriant crops, promising a most abundant and an early harvest, the town, the river winding through the vale, the ancient castle of Brougham, seated on a lofty eminence amidst a profusion of tall trees, some charmingly-situated gentlemens' seats seen through the most judiciously arranged plantations, and the high distant hills and mountains towering above each other to the skies, together formed one of the richest and most charming landscapes it is possible to conceive, particularly when adorned, as it was when first we viewed its countless beauties from the summit of a hill about two miles from the town, by the rays of the departing sun and a sky unclouded by a single vapour: A glorious and enchanting view it altogether presented to the eye; and tasteless

and indifferent to the beauties nature had so lavishly bestowed upon that charming spot, must the mortal have been, who could unmoved behold a scene at once so picturesque, so lovely, and magnificent. Indulging for some time our ravished eyes with the views of the delightful prospect spread before our sight, we descended the hill, and crossing both the Eden and Emont rivers, which unite their waters near Penrith, we passed along a street of good appearance, and stopped in a kind of square at a large and handsome inn, where we found the excellence of the fare, and the comfort of the accommodations, surpass even the elegant exterior of the building.

The evening being delightfully pleasant, we, according to our usual practice, strolled about the town while supper was preparing, and in the course of our ramble were gratified with the sight of several mansions of genteel appearance, and with pleasure observed the air of cleanliness and neatness which prevailed amongst the dwellings of the lower orders of the towns-folks, a gratification not always to be found in other and more opulent parts of the kingdom. In Penrith, the tanning of leather occupies a considerable number of hands, and candles are also made there of a superior quality; as yet, however, it may rather be accounted a genteel retirement for persons unconnected with trade or business of any kind, desirous of enjoying a moderate share of society at a distance from the bustle and extravagance of the great world, than a place of much consequence.

In common with other places on the borders of the kingdom, Penrith was frequently plundered by the Scots, and in the reign of Robert II. it was pillaged by his marauders, and almost totally destroyed by fire. The castle, said to have been erected in the time of Henry II. is now in ruins; but these retain the marks of having once been a place of strength, though time has left few traces of its former grandeur. The church, built of a reddish-coloured stone found in the neighbourhood, is a respectable structure, and the market-house, over which there is a large room, where the sessions for the district are held, is also far from wearing an indifferent appearance.

Penrith is in Westmoreland, one of the most northerly of the English counties, inhabited in early times by the tribe denominated Brigantes, who gave it the name it still retains, from its situation to the north-west, and its having a great portion of its land, a barren moor. Its manufactures chiefly consist of woollen cloths and stockings, and about Kendal in particular are carried on to a considerable extent.

Not far from Appleby, in 1508, Bambridge, afterwards Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, was born, who having been sent on an

embassy to Pope Julius II. was by that Pontiff loaded with dignities and honours, created a cardinal and treated with a degree of respect few men in his situation ever before received; but frail are the dignities and honours bestowed by man upon his fellow-mortals; uncertain are the events of this state of existence: —the poor Cardinal, just on the point of returning to his native country, unfortunately happening to have a dispute with his cook, the wretch fired with revenge for a supposed affront, administered a dose of poison in his victuals, and after a short but violent struggle he expired, and his body was interred with every mark of respect in the church of St. Thomas at Rome. In Westmoreland also, the father of Addison was born, who, being bred to the church, was promoted to the Deanery of Litchfield, and his remains lie interred in the Cathedral of that city.

A character of more than ordinary worth, named Barnard Gilpin, but more commonly known by the appellation of the *Northern Apostle,* was born in Westmoreland. During the reign of Edward VI. his labours to promote the Reformation were unremitting, and even throughout the dreadful period of Mary's government he ventured still to preach his doctrines with the utmost zeal; annually performing a journey through the northern counties in order to instruct those who were destitute of proper ministers, to lead them into the way of truth. At his own expence he also kept a school, educated and sent to the University a number of young men, who had no other means to enable them to get there. Pious, charitable, and hospitable, his house was the resort of all the indigent and helpless for many miles around, to whom his counsels and relief were as the balm of heaven, his life most dear and precious, and his death, which happened in 1583, an irreparable loss.

CHAP. III.

CARLISLE, ITS HISTORY.—CATHEDRAL.—CASTLE.—MANUFACTURES.—BRIDGE AND GATES.—LONGTOWN.—ENTRANCE INTO SCOTLAND.—ROAD TO LANGHOLM. THE TOWN.—ANCIENT CUSTOMS.—BORDER CHIEFS.—JOHNNIE ARMSTRONG.—SUPERSTITIONS.—MOSSPAUL INN.—HAWICK, ITS MANUFACTURES.—ROXBURGHSHIRE.—THOMSON THE POET.—SELKIRK.—BEAUTIFUL SCENERY ON THE ROAD TO BANKHOUSE.—MIDDLETON.—BAD ACCOMMODATIONS THERE.—EDINBURGH.

BEING desirous of having a considerable portion of the day we meant to pass at Carlisle, entirely in our power, we quitted Penrith early in the morning, and, after traversing a dull uninteresting tract of country, for the space of eighteen miles, we arrived in that ancient city, where, after partaking of an excellent breakfast, we sallied forth to view its cathedral, and whatever else seemed likely to afford us any entertainment or instruction. Carlisle, though not now of the same importance as formerly it was accounted, is still esteemed a place of consequence, and the abode of many respectable and genteel families. By *Leil* a King of the Britons, it was named *Caer-Leil,* soon after its foundation, which name has long since been changed to Carlisle, and both the founder and its ancient appellation, almost totally forgotten, in the lapse of years. In the time of the Romans it was deemed a place of more than ordinary strength; but after their departure, the Picts and Scots repeatedly sacked and plundered it, and it had fallen into a state of almost utter ruin, when the Saxons, perceiving its importance, rebuilt the city, enclosed it with a wall, and having repaired the church bestowed it on Saint Cuthbert, then bishop of Lindesfern, and his successors. In the ninth century it was again nearly destroyed by the pillaging marauders of the North, and continued in a state of disrepair, till William Rufus, in order to form a powerful barrier to the incursions of his neighbours, rebuilt greatly enlarged it; a plan still further executed by Henry I. who strengthened the fortifications, erected it into a see, and built a monastery, which he filled with canons of the order of Saint Augustine, a foundation which continued till the general suppression of religious houses in Britain, when the rich priory

and convent were added to the Bishopric, for the support of a dean, and other dignitaries. In the reign of Edward II. a part of the city was destroyed by accidental fire, at which time, the cathedral was considerably injured, though less so than at a subsequent period, by the soldiers of Cromwell's army; it is still however a large and respectable-looking structure of a reddish-coloured stone surrounded by a wall and rows of trees, which contribute not a little by the dark shade of their foliage to give the building a venerable air, infinitely preferable to the glaring and exposed appearance, which other similar edifices are now it seems by the reigning taste brought to wear. The choir, which is spacious and handsome, is lighted by a noble window, adorned with pillars, richly carved and ornamented, and the roof is embellished with the arms of several northern Barons, painted upon wood. The symmetry of the structure is however greatly injured by the damage it sustained during the period of the commonwealth, the west end having suffered particularly from the wanton ravages of the soldiery, and being of a height greatly inferior to the chancel. The Bishop's residence is but a few miles distant from the city, and is accounted one of the finest seats in the kingdom.

The castle, which is seated on an eminence, overlooking an extensive plain, is scarcely worthy of a visit; nor is the ancient fort, where a few invalids are usually stationed at the eastern extremity of the city, deserving of description; the former has a Governor, and Lieutenant-Governor, but no regular garrison.

The manufacture of whips and the printing of calicoes employ a number of hands at Carlisle; and in the former, many children gain a livelihood, without being a burthen on their parents for subsistence. It is a great thoroughfare, and, though not strikingly handsome or well-built, is a place of good appearance and considerable bustle. The police of the city is regulated by a Mayor, and other proper magistrates, and its representatives are chosen by the freemen in general. It has a plentiful and cheap weekly-market, and several annual fairs, at which immense numbers of small-sized Scotch cattle are disposed of, as well as a variety of necessary articles for the middling and lower classes of people, who for nearly forty miles around resort at those times to Carlisle.

The bridge across the river is of very ancient date, and was formerly guarded by a gate at the entrance into the city: but by the orders of the Duke of Cumberland, in 1745, that as also the other two gates were taken away; and the arches under which they were hung, is all that now remains to mark the spots they had defended. The walls however are still standing, and

perfectly entire. Annual races are held upon a fine flat piece of ground, near to the course of the river, which are generally well attended, and the sport good.

Proceeding on the morning following our arrival at Carlisle towards the northern capital, we crossed the river by the bridge already-mentioned, and, after ascending a height on the opposite side of the plain, we entered on a wild and dreary tract of country, which with little variation continued, till we drew near to Longtown, a small straggling place, consisting of one long street, in which there are some tolerably well-built houses, and distant from Carlisle about ten miles. Its situation is far from unpleasant, near the river Esk, on the confines of Cumberland, but it contains nothing worthy of a stranger's curiosity; nor is any kind of trade or manufacture carried on in it, deserving of notice. It has several large and good inns, and is a great thoroughfare for all travellers passing to and from Glasgow, Portpatrick, &c.

Pursuing our route, as soon we could depart after breakfast, we crossed the Esk, at the distance of three miles from Longtown, and entered Scotland, cheered by the enlivening influence of a warm sunshine, and presaging, from the pleasing change which had suddenly taken place in the horizon, an agreeable and entertaining tour through part of North Britain; we are often guided, too much guided, by the effect of external objects, and there are few persons over whom the weather or a cloudy atmosphere has not an influence; in the early part of the morning, dark heavy clouds and misty vapour obscured the sun from view, and judging more from our apprehensions than from any real presage of an approaching storm, we began to indulge in lamentations on account of our bad fortune, in not having a better day to prosecute our journey, and to murmur at the fog, which we feared, would effectually prevent our seeing to advantage the delightful scenery, we had been led to expect to view, in the course of the ride from Longtown towards Langholm; when suddenly the sky began to clear around us, the sun broke forth, as if to reproach us for repining at his absence, with unusual lustre, and, cheered by his influence, every object shortly wore a lively and more pleasing aspect, and at every turning of the road, new and delightful prospects opened to our view, until we found ourselves pursuing the course of the river Esk, along a narrow valley, bounded by steep and thickly-wooded banks; whilst, pouring impetuously along a rocky channel, the river forms at intervals some beautiful cascades, and for the distance of several miles embellishes and heightens one of the loveliest scenes of nature, in her own sweet, simple interesting garb, either pen or pencil ever attempted to describe.

Arriving at Langholm, we found the town to be just what we had been taught to expect, an ill-built, mean and dirty little place, prettily situated in the district, called Eskdale, in Dumfrieshire. Its castle, now a ruin, was once the residence and strong-hold of a border-chieftain, who had fortified it to repel the attacks of the neighbouring freebooters who disturbed the tranquillity, and during several centuries, infested dreadfully the counties on the confines of both kingdoms. Not far from thence is a spot, where in the days of superstition, ignorance, and barbarism, it was customary to try unfortunate wretches accused of sorcery or witchcraft by ordeal, and also to inflict a punishment of a most cruel kind, upon those luckless females whose unruly tongues became offensive to their husbands or their neighbours; even so late as half a century ago, the latter practice was continued, but since that time the ladies have been treated with more politeness, or have become more mild and gentle in their natures, for not one instance of the *Poranks* being put in use has occurred. The instrument of punishment so called, was composed of sharp iron, and thrust into the mouth of the offender, while the head was kept steady, by means of a strong bolt, and the unhappy sufferer subjected to the reproaches, insults, and taunts of the spectators, who witnessed with shouts and laughter the blood streaming in torrents from the wounds inflicted by the torturing iron. A similar punishment for the correction of scolds and brawling females was used in Staffordshire, and is mentioned by Dr. Plat in his history of that county.

In the vicinity of Langholm, upon the banks of the Esk, the famous Johnnie Armstrong, a celebrated border-chief, and hero of his day resided, and the remains of his abode are yet standing, though in a ruinous state. The leader of a desperate gang of freebooters, whose name alone struck terror into the hearts of the inhabitants of the surrounding country, as far as to the southern extremity of Northumberland, this powerful and undaunted mortal's name is mentioned even by some of our best historians, upon whose authority I present my readers with the following anecdote which will at once prove how powerful and how terrible he had become to all the neighbouring country, as well as to the English borderers, and that of all the chiefs, who openly defied the power of government during the reign of James V. none acted with so great audacity, nor with such boldness ventured to resist their sovereign, who having been necessitated to head in person an expedition against those daring marauders, was boldly met by Johnnie Armstrong and a chosen band of followers, arrayed in the most costly manner and presenting an appearance the most formidable. With fearless

spirit, he advanced towards the King, and sued for pardon of his past offences, promising to serve him ever afterwards with loyalty and fidelity, and at his own expence, maintain a powerful force, whose services on all occasions should be ready at the disposal of his Majesty, and also undertaking before a certain day passed over, to bring to him any subject in England, Duke, Earl, or Baron, either dead or alive, a promise there is little doubt of his having faithfully performed, had his proffered services been accepted of. But James, swayed by the advice of his attendants and irritated at his former actions, refused to listen to his proposals, or pardon his past offences, and ordered the unfortunate Armstrong and his followers to be instantly executed, upon which, perceiving every hope of forgiveness at an end, he haughtily replied, "It is folly to seek for grace at a graceless face, but had I known this, I should have lived upon the borders in despight of Harry and you both, for I know King Harry would downweigh my best horse with gold, to hear I were condemned to die this day;" but neither promises of future good behaviour nor haughtiness had power to alter the determination of the King, and Armstrong and his men were hung upon some trees, then growing at a place called Carleng-Chapel, on the road betwixt Langholm and Hawick, where traces of their graves are yet to be seen near to the road-side; but not a vestige of a tree remains to mark the spot; a circumstance the country-people assert, was occasioned by the injustice of the sentence passed on Johnnie and his followers, having caused them to wither, and in the end entirely to disappear from view; for the memory of Johnnie Armstrong, though in all probability there were few, save those who profited by his plunderings, who either loved or respected him while in existence, is held in veneration by the lower class of people in the neighbourhood where he lived, and various ballads celebrating his exploits and recording his worth, are still sung or repeated with much pathos; in Mr. Scot's agreeable publication "the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders," his name is mentioned and his deeds extolled in rhyme.

Besides this celebrated hero, there were others of the same name, little less noted for their plunderings and depredations. Being in possession of a large portion of that part of the country known by the name of the "*Debateable Lands*," they had easy access into England, and consequently often penetrated a considerable distance into that country, preying upon the property of the inhabitants, and rendering themselves objects of alarm and dread wherever they appeared. The leaders of the parties were usually chiefs of different clans, of whom there were several engaged in these exploits, besides the Armstrongs,

(whose deeds are also celebrated in prose and verse), or men of consequence, who exercised the most absolute authority over their followers and dependants, whose sole means of living were derived from the plunder of others, and the exactions called "*Black Mail*," they levied on their less powerful neighbours. Not in sufficiently affluent circumstances to embellish their habitations in the manner of the English Chiefs, their rivals and opponents, their residences were more remarkable for strength than magnificence or extent, being seldom more than a square tower, placed on a rocky precipice or steep bank, near the course of a river, defended by a wall, and surrounded either by a thick wood or moss. The interior of these buildings were gloomy and uncomfortable, though by means of thick walls, and vaulted apartments, they were strong, and secure from all attacks. Unacquainted with the comforts of more modern times, a warm cottage, and a clean apartment, the dwellings of their followers were barely sufficient to defend their persons from the severity of the weather, mean, dirty, and wretched in the extreme, almost entirely destitute of common necessary articles, and usually abandoned on the approach of an enemy, the inhabitants finding shelter in the castles of their leaders, or some neighbouring bog. Like other tribes of banditti, they were generally assembled by the signal of fires lighted on the adjacent hills, and on various occasions several thousands have gathered together in the course of a single day, sometimes under pretence of hunting, foot-ball, or other sports, but in general for the purpose of concerting the time and means of attacking an enemy, or of commencing some of their plundering expeditions. Yet fierce, undaunted, and unawed by any sense of danger, as they unquestionably were, these men were the slaves of superstitious weakness, and in no part of the kingdom was the belief in fairies, ghosts, and hobgoblins, more prevalent than on the border counties. In the visitations of the spirits of deceased friends or relations they implicitly believed, and many traces of that species of folly yet remain amongst the lower class of inhabitants, in all parts of the kingdom. Of fairies they particularly dreaded the power; and at this day many instances are related, and fully credited, of their dexterity and wonderful exploits; and in Selkirkshire it is asserted they on one occasion carried off a poor man, whilst asleep, from a field where he had been at work, and bore him through the air, for more than fifty miles, when feeling themselves either tired of their burden, or satisfied with their frolic, they popped him down in the midst of the city of Glasgow, where, without his coat, or *bonnet*, which latter, in the flight, had been dropped, and had fallen on the spire of a church at least a dozen miles distant, he stood exposed to the gaze and wonder of the

surrounding spectators, unable to give any rational account of his aërial journey, and unexpected appearance amongst them; fortunately, however, an old acquaintance recognized him, and, taking pity upon his distressful situation, assisted him to return home by a less speedy conveyance than he had just alighted from. A similar story is mentioned in one of the notes of Mr. Scot's work, already quoted; and the above is yet related as a fact in Selkirkshire, where there are persons who yet believe that one of the Elfin tribe, named the *Brownie*, attends in the houses of families of distinction, assisting idle or lazy servants, and employing the night in the performance of the works they have neglected during the day, setting all things in order against the return of morning, and on many occasions proving himself a wonderfully-kind and useful friend. There are, however, others, whose dispositions are not reported to be so friendly and good-natured, who take a pleasure in enticing persons from their homes, or travellers from their road, in dark and stormy nights, playing them a thousand mischievous tricks, and sometimes even carrying their spite so far as to plunge them into pits or rivers, never to rise again. But it would be almost endless to recount the various superstitions, weaknesses, and follies, ignorance has given birth to, which, though now in a great measure banished from the minds of all sensible and well-educated persons, are yet but too prevalent in all parts of the United Kingdoms I have ever visited, amongst the lower orders of society; each district having, though under different appellations, its *Brownie's, Water-kelpys, Baunshee's*, ghosts, and hobgoblins, to terrify the weak, and hold the superstitious in perpetual dread; I shall therefore take my leave of the subject for the present, and carry my readers forward with me, to Moss-Paul Green, a dirty wretched hovel, where travellers are necessitated to stop in order to refresh their horses, on the stage betwixt Langholm and Harwich, the distance being upwards of twenty miles, and the road, though smooth, extremely hilly. This filthy place is situated in a deep and narrow valley, watered by the river Ewe, and usually denominated Ewesdale, probably from the immense number of sheep which feed upon the hills, and of which we saw numerous flocks, during the course of our ride from Langholm to Moss-Paul, and from thence to Hawick, a small town, seated on the banks of the Tiviot, over which there is a good stone bridge, commanding some very pleasing views of the adjacent country. In itself, Hawick cannot be said to be a place of any great importance, or possessing the least beauty. The principal inn is a large building, and contains some good apartments; but they were neither clean nor comfortable when we saw them. No public edifices of any note adorn the town; nor are there many houses

in it, of even genteel appearance. A considerable manufacture of carpets, stockings, and coarse cloths, is carried on there; the material for which is produced in the adjacent country, a district abounding with sheep, whose wool is accounted of an excellent quality, and is particularly attended to by the landholders, who rent large pasturing farms, and rear prodigious numbers of those useful animals, whose flesh is of a fine flavour, and whose fleecy coats are of such universal benefit to man.

Hawick is situated in Roxburghshire, a small county, divided into two districts, commonly denominated Liddesdale and Tiviotdale; the northern and western parts being chiefly mountainous, and thinly inhabited; the east and southern quarters more level, fertile, and agreeable, particularly in the neighbourhood of Kelso, the beauties of which have been often and deservedly celebrated.

Though small, the county of Roxburgh has to boast of having been the birth-place of several distinguished characters; amongst whom were, the brave defender of Gibraltar, the gallant Elliot; Sir John Pringle, an eminent physician and philosopher; and Thomson the poet, who first beheld the light in the village of Ednam, near Coldstream, on the borders of the county.

There being little either in the beauty of Hawick to gratify our curiosity, or in the excellence of our accommodations, to induce us to make a longer stay than requisite in that place, we proceeded on the following morning towards Selkirk; and passing over a dreary, barren, and uninteresting tract of country, unvaried by any single pleasing or picturesque object, we reached the town just named to breakfast, which upon a survey we perceived to be a mean and unimportant place, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, overlooking a pretty valley, watered by the rivers Eltrick and Yarrow, which form a junction at no great distance from the town, close to which we observed a pretty seat, with a handsome modern mansion, belonginging to a Mr. Pringle, whose grounds appear to be laid out with taste, and whose residence is unquestionably the chief ornament of the vicinity of Selkirk. Insignificant as it appears, Selkirk is a royal burgh, and was favoured by some of the Scottish monarchs with several grants of lands, a part of which still belong to it. In conjunction with some other burghs, it sends one member to the senate, has a weekly market, but no manufactures deserving to be noticed. The county bearing the same name is one of the smallest, most mountainous, and thinly-peopled, in Scotland; formerly almost a forest, but now exhibiting little remains of wood, excepting near to gentlemens' seats, or by the sides of the rivers; the hills, however, afford abundance of sheep-pasture, and large flocks, which constitute the principal stock of the

farmers, are fed on them. The wool is manufactured in the county into coarse cloths and knit stockings; particularly at a place called Gallashiels, near to the junction of the Tweed and Galla, where the weaving business is carried on with tolerable spirit, and the cloths denominated "Gallashiels Grey," (being of a darkish colour,) find a ready sale, and are in use chiefly by the poorer class of people.

The rivers in Selkirkshire and the adjoining counties have been so celebrated in song, that few persons are unacquainted with their names, and few are they who have failed to admire the charming melody of "Tweed Side," the "Braes of Yarrow," "Galla-Water," and "Ettrick Banks," &c. Even the ever varying and inconstant deity called *Fashion*, whose influence pervades all ranks and classes of society, has not been able to prevail upon her followers to banish any of these simple Scottish airs from their most harmonious collections: on the contrary, there never was a period when Scottish music was so universally played and admired; and the introduction of many of the most favourite airs, in the compositions of our celebrated masters, has at once proved their taste and judgment in the selection; and the reception they have met with from the public, has done them ample justice.

On leaving Selkirk, we descended into the valley watered by the Yarrow and the Ettrick; and, crossing their waters, then united together into a smoothly gliding stream, we continued to follow its course for nearly four miles, when suddenly, on winding round the point of a hill, our eyes were feasted with the view of one of the most charmingly romantic scenes that nature ever formed, combining all that could be requisite to compose a landscape truly picturesque and sublimely grand. In front of us stood *Yair*, the handsome modern-built mansion of a Mr. Pringle, seated upon a lovely meadow, bounded on one side by the River Tweed, which, nearly opposite the house, bends in a contrary direction, and is lost to view amidst extensive woods, intermixed with grey and broken rocks, whose bold projecting heads jut out beyond the thick, luxuriant foliage of the trees; or, if thinly screened by their long and waving branches, peep forth from their concealments in the most fantastic forms, presenting a *tout-ensemble* rarely to be equalled, and scarcely possible to be excelled. A simple bridge, thrown over the rocky channel of the river, contributes greatly to the beauty of the scene, and enables the traveller to proceed along the vale with ease and safety. Behind the house high hills arise, clothed to the summit with different sorts of wood; and in a deep glen, which divides them from another woody height, a furious torrent pours down with ceaseless noise, and unites with

the waters of the Tweed, near to the bridge already mentioned. Crossing the river, the road winds close along the bases of another range of hills; on one of which, amidst some ancient trees, we observed another gentleman's seat, which, though not so finely situated as Yair, is far from being destitute of many beauties. As we advanced, the views upon our left, particularly, were wonderfully picturesque and pleasing—verdant meadows, a charming woody valley, rocks, broken inequalities of ground, and a thousand various beauties, presented themselves to view for the space of nearly two miles; when, upon ascending a steep hill, we entered on a very different-looking tract of country, which, though by no means uninteresting, was far inferior to the lovely scenes we had just quitted: but uninterrupted pleasure falls not to the lot of mortals, and Providence has wisely ordained that a portion of the disagreeable shall ever succeed to, or be intermingled with, its contrast. Our thankless hearts would else forget the numerous benefits and blessings we enjoy, and, whilst continuing to drink of Pleasure's cup without alloy, we should become dissatisfied, and sicken at the draught.

> Well hath the Great Creator of the world
> Fram'd it in that exact and perfect form,
> That by itself unmoveable might stand,
> Supported only by his Providence.
>
> Well hath he taught the swelling ocean
> To know his bounds, lest in luxurious pride
> He should insult upon the conquer'd land.
> Well hath he plac'd those torches in the Heav'ns
> To give light to our else all darkened eyes—
> The chrystal windows, through which our soul
> Looking upon the world's most beauteous face,
> Is blest with sight and knowledge of his works.
> Well hath He all things done.

Proceeding by the banks of Galla-Water, we reached Bankhouse, a single inn, fourteen miles from Selkirk, where, stopping to refresh our horses, we walked about for nearly an hour, but observed nothing in the appearance of the adjacent country either strikingly agreeable or otherwise. Ranges of hills, affording pasture for sheep, still seemed to predominate, and consequently there was a sameness in the views that leaves but little room for description. From thence, we pursued our way to Middleton, nine miles beyond Bankhouse, and having some years before, when travelling the same road, found most excellent quarters at the former, we did not increase our speed in order to reach the capital that night, wishing rather to get into Edinburgh the following morning. It was, therefore, duskish before we

reached our place of destination; but, on our arrival, we experienced the mortification of finding the inn occupied by other persons than I had formerly seen there, and no less remarkable for its filthiness and irregularity, than it had before been for cleanliness and good order. To go on with our own horses was then impossible, and others were not to be procured in the place, having all been that afternoon at Edinburgh, with the family of a great man, and returned quite fatigued: thus we had no alternative, but to make the best of our accommodations; and accordingly we ordered supper and beds to be prepared, both which the landlady assured us should be speedily got in readiness, and as excellent as we could desire; two hours and a half, however, elapsed before the former made its appearance on the table, and then it was not eatable. A huge roasted fowl, apparently the sovereign of the poultry-yard, whose torn skin bore evident marks of having been slain for the occasion, and an immense dish of fried bacon, or rather salted pork, swimming in grease, constituted the promised feast; and notwithstanding the hostess's loud and repeated assurances of the fowl being "*vera guid and ten'er*," we were necessitated to satisfy the calls of hunger with a little bad bread, and some hard boiled eggs, and retire to our wretched apartments for the remainder of the night, not a little amused, though disgusted, with the appearance of all around us—with the woman's manner, and the rage her features expressed, when we refused to partake of a second mouthful of good old chanticleer.

Hastening to quit a place so filthy and disagreeable, we arose at early dawn, and proceeded towards Edinburgh, through a pleasant, fertile country, adorned with several fine seats, and presenting an agreeable landscape for many miles around. At one of the elegant hotels in the New Town, we took up our abode for above a week; and in point of convenience, cleanliness, and comfort, I may safely assert, we could not have found one more to our mind in any of the best hotels the metropolis of the empire can boast of.

CHAP. IV.

EDINBURGH. — THE CASTLE. — HOLYROOD HOUSE. — HOUSES IN THE OLD TOWN. — THE NEW COLLEGE.— THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.—THE NEW TOWN.—PRINCE'S STREET—ITS LENGTH AND BEAUTY.—ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—HOSPITALS, BY WHOM ENDOWED.—ENVIRONS OF EDINBURGH.—THE CALTON-HILL.—POLICE OF THE CITY.—LEITH—ITS EXTENSIVE TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.—ROSLIN CASTLE.—ROMANTIC SCENERY. — HAWTHORNDEN. — THE POET DRUMMOND, &c. &c.

THE ancient city of Edinburgh is built upon the sides of three separate hills, and may now, with perfect propriety, be denominated the Old and New Towns. The former stands upon the ridge of a steep hill, terminating abruptly, at the western extremity, in a huge mass of rock, on which the Castle is seated, inaccessible on three of its sides, and formerly accounted an impregnable place of defence. From thence the High-street, as it is called, extends in an easterly direction nearly a mile, ending at the ancient Palace of Holyrood, the residence of the Scottish monarchs, and now appropriated to the use of different persons, one of whom is the unfortunate Monsieur of France, who has had a suite of apartments there, since compelled to quit his own ill-fated country. Within its precincts also many persons reside, who are obliged to avoid their creditors. But to return to the High-street, which is of a good width, but very irregularly built, and many of the houses, from their strange situation, are several stories higher upon the north, than on the southern side; and being uncommonly lofty, even to the height of fourteen and fifteen floors, they contain a number of different families—each floor being shut in by a door, but one common staircase leading from the bottom to the top of the building, which, as may reasonably be imagined, is almost constantly in a state of most disgusting filthiness. About the middle of the street are two others intersecting it, the one leading to the South, the other to the North Bridge; the former affording an easy communication with the New Town, and adorned with many elegant shops, containing every article of luxury and expence.

'At the southern extremity of the South Bridge, stands the yet unfinished College; a building which, for grandeur and beauty, will have few, if any, equal in Europe, if it is ever entirely completed: but though the subscriptions have been most liberal, the funds for its erection are nearly exhausted; and indeed the expence already incurred would have been adequate to the completion of an equally convenient and a very magnificent edifice.

The University of Edinburgh has long been famous, and the number of students, who annually resort to it, is very great. The medical and surgical classes are particularly celebrated, and many of the most eminent practitioners in both professions have received instruction within its walls. The Royal Infirmary is a noble institution, and conducted in the most admirable manner. In the New Town, both the public and private buildings are magnificent, and equal any to be seen in other parts of Britain. St. Andrew's-square, George's-street, Prince's-street, and many others, are uniform, elegant, and tasteful; and no stranger can behold the superb edifices in all parts of the New Town, without conceiving an high opinion of the taste and opulence of its inhabitants. As an entrance to a great city, Prince's-street has scarce an equal; its length, without a single curve or bend, being upwards of a mile, and its breadth such as to bear a just proportion to its extent. On the southern side it is partly open, and commands a view across the valley that divides the Old from the New Town; and near to its centre is an immense mound of earth, composed of that dug from the foundations of the neighbouring houses, which forms a passage to the other side, and affords an easy access, without going so far down as the South Bridge. The stone of which the buildings are composed is of an excellent quality and good colour, hewn in the best manner; and on several of the edifices, elegantly carved, and disposed with great taste and judgment. St. Andrew's Church is a spacious structure, and its spire is accounted an uncommonly fine piece of workmanship. The Register-Office is also a noble building, fitted up in the most secure manner for the preservation of the records of the country from fire or other accidents. The Theatre, in its exterior, is less elegant than many of the other buildings, but it is handsomely decorated within, and, besides a company of its own, has frequently some of the best London performers on its stage. The Assembly Rooms are highly finished, and capable of containing several hundred persons with ease. The national courts of justice are held in the ancient Parliament House. In what is termed the Inner House, the judges, or Lords of Session, sit to decide on all cases of importance; and in the outer, one of their number, in turn

(denominated the Lord Ordinary), holds a court for the purpose of adjusting affairs of less consequence. Above these, the Court of Exchequer occupy the apartments, and below is the library belonging to the society of advocates (lawyers), esteemed the best collection of books and manuscripts in the kingdom. In the centre of the square is an equestrian statue of Charles II. and on the north side stands St. Giles's—a structure under whose roof there are four churches, but none of them meriting a particular description—an omission I hope my readers will pardon on different occasions, as well as the present; it being my opinion, that long and pompous descriptions of buildings, their extent, decorations, &c. (which, after all, are often found to be scarce worth noticing) are extremely tiresome to the reader, I shall, therefore, seldom tire either them or myself by useless and laboured accounts of buildings not more than ordinarily striking or magnificent; nor increase the work by descriptions of fine houses or stately edifices, either public or private. To me, the sweet and simple scenes of nature, the roaring torrent, or the towering precipice, are far more objects of surprize and admiration; and as we are all apt to imagine others relish what pleases ourselves, I shall probably rather err in presenting these at times to the perusal of my readers, who, I trust, will overlook defects, and pardon faults I cannot remedy, and never purposely committed.

Of charitable instiutions there are many in Edinburgh. That named Herriot's Hospital, is a large handsome edifice, founded in 1628, and endowed by George Herriot, goldsmith to James VI. for the maintenance and educating of an hundred and fifty boys. It has hitherto been conducted with great propriety, and its revenues amount to nearly 4,000*l.* per annum. Watson's Hospital, for the sons of decayed merchants, is also well regulated; and besides these, there are several others of essential benefit to the young and indigent.

In the environs of Edinburgh, as in the vicinity of all large cities, there are many elegant mansions, and agreeable villas; but to enter into a detail of these, is utterly inconsistent with my plan. Suffice it then to say, the surrounding country is a rich and highly cultivated tract, which, for beauty, variety, and fertility, is much and very deservedly extolled. From the Calton Hill, a lofty eminence at the eastern extremity of the city, the view of the adjacent district is most extensive and beautiful; on the east, extending towards Haddington, over a rich and populous plain, adorned with numerous villas, farms in the highest state of cultivation, and all the various objects which embellish and ornament a landscape; on the north, the town of Leith, the river Forth majestically rolling through the vale, and stretching

wide its waters as an arm of the sea, covered with innumerable vessels of different sizes, and the beautiful shores of Fifeshire on the opposite banks of the Forth, present a prospect varied, interesting, and delightful; to the south, the rocky points of Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat afford a charming contrast to the views already noticed; and on the west, the city, castle, a wide extent of cultivated ground, backed by the Pontland Hills, display one of the grandest scenes of the kind it is possible to conceive. A path cut round the hill leads to an observatory on the summit, and on its southern side a commodious building, used as a Bridewell, stands; while on another quarter is a burying ground, where amongst other eminent men's remains rest those of Hume the historian, covered by a singularly shaped, but by no means handsome or costly, monument.

The city of Edinburgh is governed by a chief magistrate called the lord-provost, who is also dignified with the title of right honourable. He is high-sheriff, coroner, and admiral of the city and liberties, and of the town and port of Leith. The next in rank to him are the baillies, four in number, (similar to aldermen in London,) a council, a treasurer, and other officers, who have the management of the city revenues, and the disposal of places, which annually amount to a very large sum.

The number of inhabitants, including Leith, is estimated at upwards of one hundred thousand; and the increasing trade of the latter renders it probable, that in a few years they will amount to many more. The markets are abundantly supplied with every necessary article of living, and every luxury imaginable. Large tracts of ground in the neighbourhood are occupied by gardeners, and all sorts of fruit and kitchen vegetables are brought to market at an early season, and purchased with avidity. Strawberries, in particular, are in such plenty in the season, as to be frequently sold as low as two-pence per Scotch pint, or one penny a quart.

With Edinburgh, Leith is now almost united, and, with its size, the latter is rapidly advancing in wealth and commerce. Its harbour is an excellent one, and its trade is carried on with almost all the ports in the world. Its manufactures are in a very flourishing state, and consist of such as are connected with navigation, glass, &c. &c.

Besides the university, there are numerous seminaries of education in Edinburgh, of which the High School, the first grammar-school established there, is considered the principal. It has been long in high repute, and from four to five hundred boys are annually taught within its walls. The number of private academies and boarding schools for young ladies is considerable; and as teachers little inferior to those who profess the same

branches in London are to be procured in Edinburgh, the schools are in general well filled, and many families remove from the country to the city in order to have their children educated under their own inspection; a circumstance which adds to the gaiety and splendour of the northern capital, particularly during the winter season, when the amusements are nearly as numerous, and public places, in proportion to the population, as fully attended as in the metropolis of the empire.

To have quitted Edinburgh without paying a visit to the wild romantic scenery at Roslin, would have been unpardonable in persons whose chief delight arises from viewing Nature in her unadorned garb; we, therefore, fixed upon a day so sweetly mild, so temperately warm, that it exactly seemed to be the very fittest to be chosen for such an excursion; and after several hours spent in wandering over this delightful spot, we returned again to town, charmed with our ramble, and satisfied with all around us—a state even princes might envy, and which mortals but on some occasions are willing to enjoy; for in the midst of pleasure there is often pain, and what we frequently look forward to with the highest hopes of gratification, fails in the promised joy, and leaves the mind filled with displeasure, oftentimes regret. On the above occasions we had neither aught to render us out of humour with ourselves or others, nor had disappointment met our expectations in any thing we had seen; for though we had been prepared to find Roslin a delightful spot, we had not been led to imagine it half so beautiful as it in reality appeared. Of the castle, nought but the ruins now remain to mark the residence of the family of Sinclair, and the abode of a descendant of the Scottish monarch, Robert Bruce. These are romantically perched upon a rocky eminence, overhanging a deep and narrow glen, watered by the North Esk River, which winds its course amidst enormous heaps of stones, and is bounded by steep woody banks, where paths are cut in various directions, and whence the views are interesting and picturesque beyond a possibility of description. The chapel, at a little distance from the castle, though not large, has been a fine piece of Gothic architecture. Its interior is remarkable for simplicity and taste, and the whole an admirably executed specimen of the workmanship of ancient times.

From Roslin to Hawthornden, the seat of Bishop Abernethy Drummond, the scenery is indescribably delightful, and many of the views romantic in the highest degree. The house is seated on a lofty bank, surrounded by woods, and overlooking the river, dashing over broken crags, and, with its white spray, forming a perfect contrast to the dusky frowning precipices and the leafy branches of the overhanging trees. In the early part of the six-

teenth century, Hawthornden was the residence of the poet and historian Drummond, whose works have been much and very justly admired by the lovers of taste and harmony of numbers. Some of his sonnets, particularly those written before and after the death of his mistress, are accounted equal to those of the so much admired Petrarch; but being now seldom met with, they are unknown to many, who would read and admire them as productions of infinite merit. Allied to the Stuart family, and warmly attached to their interests, he was so deeply affected by the sentence passed upon his royal kinsman, Charles I. that he never afterwards enjoyed a tolerable state of health or spirits, and died in 1649, leaving a family of several children, the eldest of whom was knighted by Charles II.

CHAP. V.

DEPARTURE FROM EDINBURGH.—QUEEN'S FERRY.—PASSAGE ACROSS INCHGARVY ISLAND.—INVERKIETHING.—KINROSS.—LOCH-LEVEN.—RUINS OF ITS CASTLE AND PRIORY.—ROAD TO PERTH.—DELIGHTFUL SCENERY.—PERTH.—ITS SITUATION.—ITS BRIDGE.—THE RIVER TAY.—THE MANUFACTURES, MARKETS, HISTORY OF THE TOWN.—LUNCARTY.—EXPLOITS OF THE HAYS.—THE NORTH INCH.—DISPUTE OF RIVAL CLANS DECIDED THEREON.—KINNOUL HILL.—THE REPORTED ORIGIN OF ITS NAME.—THE GRAMPIAN MOUNTAINS.—PERTHSHIRE, &c. &c.—THE PALACE OF SCOON, &c.

HAVING spent above a week in Edinburgh, in the most agreeable and pleasant manner, with some friends we had not seen for many years, we again set forward on our journey to the north, by way of the passage across the Forth called the Queen's Ferry, nine miles from the capital, where boats are constantly in readiness for the conveyance of passengers from either side, and as the tide serves at all hours, few persons make a long stay at any of the passage-houses, which, in common with most places of the kind, are dirty, noisy, and uncomfortable. The distance across is not exceeding two miles, and as the boats are large and commodious, in a fine day this short aquatic excursion forms a very agreeable variety in the journey, and is attended with little inconvenience or expence, certain moderate fares being established to prevent all pretence for imposition upon strangers, and the rates for horses, carriages, &c. &c. fixed up in a conspicuous place at each side of the Ferry. The boatmen are in ge-

neral civil, and so fully practised in the business, that the heaviest carriage is in a few minutes slung on board, and the horses equally and speedily put in the place appropriated for them. For a chaise the rate is only half a crown, for each horse fourpence, and each person one penny; but those who are inclined, or can afford it, seldom reckon so exactly with the master for their own conveyance.

The wind being as favourable as could be desired, and the day an uncommonly fine one, we were wafted over to the north side of the passage in less than fifteen minutes, and, in crossing, were much gratified with the views, particularly higher up the river, of Hopetoun House, the superb mansion of the Earl of Hopetoun, situated on the banks of the Forth, about two miles above the southern landing-place; and the more distant view of Dumfermline, on the north—a town in Fifeshire, formerly remarkable for an abbey of uncommon grandeur and extent, and a palace, in which the unfortunate Charles I. and his sister, the Princess Elizabeth, were born; and now noted for its extensive manufactures of linen, in particular those used for the table, the excellence and beauty of which are universally and justly extolled. In the middle of the passage across this noble river, is an Island called Inchgarvy, a bare rocky spot, on which are some old ruins, and a small battery erected to guard the narrow pass, where a few aged invalids are stationed, but where it is to be hoped their services will never be required.

The village on the north side of the ferry is smaller and more disagreeable than even its opposite neighbour, and its situation at the foot of a high, bleak, rugged hill, is but little calculated to render its appearance more inviting. Our stay, however, was as short as possible, and without the least reluctance we began to ascend the hill already mentioned, by a steep, though tolerably good road, cut along the side, from whence we enjoyed a charming view of the Firth, and of the opposite rich and cultivated shores; till turning suddenly round a projection of the stoney height, we entered on a wild and dreary tract, descending gradually into a valley, bounded by barren hills, and totally destitute of any object to render its appearance in the least degree pleasing, or interesting. Proceeding onwards, we again ascended to the town of Inverkiething, a burgh of considerable antiquity, containing about a thousand inhabitants, situated on the north side of the Forth, possessing a tolerable harbour for small vessels, chiefly employed in the exportation of coals, of which there are inexhaustible mines in the vicinity, some few trifling branches of manufacture, and a little foreign trade. In the reign of David I. it was a royal residence; but no remains of a palace are now discernible, nor indeed of any structure beyond those of a very

mean and ordinary appearance. From thence to Kinross, the general aspect of the country, though the views are extensive, is dreary and agreeable to the eye, being thinly inhabited, hilly, and almost destitute of wood for many miles around. The approach however to Kinross, is rather more agreeable; and the town, though in reality a mean shabby place, appears at a little distance rather pretty, and pleasantly situated, to which the effect of some lofty trees, immediately in its vicinity, contributes not a little. On these a traveller, fatigued with the dreary sameness of the preceding part of the stage, naturally turns his eyes for relief, and is apt to fancy they conceal still greater beauties from his sight. In this, however, disappointment only meets his expectations. Kinross, though the principal town in the county, and a great thoroughfare, having scarce one tolerably smart or genteel looking house to boast of, and not a single public edifice worthy of a moment's observation. Linens and coarse cutlery are manufactured there, and in the neighbourhood; and it has a tolerable weekly market. Limestone and coal are found in abundance in the county; but the land being, in general, indifferent in its natural state, and in some parts very hilly, it has hitherto been chiefly turned into sheep pasture, and for the rearing of small cattle.

Loch-Leven, whose northern extremity reaches to the outskirts of Kinross, is a sheet of water, twelve miles in circumference, ornamented by some pretty islands, upon one of which are the remains of the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scotland's prison, shaded by a few aged trees, which give it an extremely picturesque appearance; and on another, are the ruins of a priory, bestowed, with the isle it stands on, by the last of the Pictish monarchs on *St. Servan,* one of the first propagators of Christianity in North Britain.

The Loch abounds with excellent trout, eels, and pike; and astonishing numbers of wild-fowl breed on its banks; the greater part of which are sent to Edinburgh in the season, where they bring such prices, as amply repay the expence of carriage thither. Although undoubtedly a very fine piece of water, and of sufficient extent to be highly ornamental to the surrounding country, Loch-Leven cannot be accounted either strikingly beautiful or picturesque, as an object in the landscape: its banks, except on one side, being too flat, tame, and unvaried by woods of any kind, and presenting, on the whole, a coldness in the appearance by no means pleasing to the eye of the beholder. The view hereto annexed, is unquestionably the finest it can boast of. We spent, however, notwithstanding its deficiency in point of beauty, some very pleasant hours in wandering along its banks, and it was nottill evening had drawn her sable curtain almost

close around us, that we returned to our inn in the town, where, having feasted on some exquisitely flavoured trout, caught in the Loch, and enjoyed the comforts of a sound repose, we again set forward on our route, through one of the most dull and uninteresting tracts of country we had ever beheld, towards the charmingly situated town of Perth, about six miles from whence, we ascended a long and rather steep hill, and in an instant our eyes were feasted with one of the most magnificent and lovely prospects it is possible to conceive;—a prospect I have since heard some acquaintances of mine, who had long resided in the finest parts of Italy, assert, was only surpasssed by one view they had seen in the neighbourhood of Florence. Be that as it may, I can truly declare it is, in my opinion, one of the grandest, most extensive, and varied, that I have yet beheld in any part of the British empire; and, as it bears at least some faint resemblance to some of the views above alluded to, it is generally said, that even when the Romans penetrated into the north, and first arrived upon the spot, in later times so justly celebrated, they uttered a joyful exclamation of surprise and pleasure; and as they surveyed the noble river Tay, meandering through the plain, and widening, as it flows, into an extensive basin, near Dundee, they cried, "There is the Tiber!" "There is the Tiber!" Indeed, imagination scarcely can conceive a more complete assemblage of lovely objects of grandeur, sublimity, and soft Arcadian sweetness, than are combined within the boundaries of the vale, which spread itself before our eyes. Rich, fertile, varied, and delightful, it is inclosed by distant hills, rising in different shapes and hues, proudly majestic, even to the skies; their bold and sometimes craggy points, adorned with cultivated fields and variegated woods; their broken rugged summits, crowned with pines, or jagged into the most fantastic forms, as if Nature, in a sportive mood, had tried to render their appearance strange, and unaccountably wild. From thence, for several miles, until we reached the outskirts of the town, not one unpleasing object, one uninteresting view, again met our sight; upon the contrary, each turning of the road presented new beauties, and the approach to the town appeared more like an avenue to some magnificent abode, than an entrance into a place of trade and manufactures.

Situated on the southern side of the Tay, in as beautiful and rich a valley as any in the kingdom, Perth can also boast of being, for its size, the cleanest and best built town in Scotland, with the additions of an excellent market and good shops, plenty of salmon in the river, and every luxury the climate or seasons admit of, at reasonable prices. In the town, there are many persons constantly employed in making shoes and gloves, both which are accounted of superior quality and cheap; and in the

vicinity, still greater numbers earn a livelihood at the different cotton-works and bleach-fields, which are extensive and flourishing in a high degree. At the northern extremity of the town, a magnificent bridge, erected at a great expence some years ago, but now entirely toll-free, unites the north and south banks of the Tay; a river which takes its rise in the upper part of the extensive county of Perth, and, after a course of between thirty and forty miles, disembogues its waters into the ocean a short way below Dundee, a large trading town, about fifteen miles from Perth. To the latter, it is navigable for small vessels, which are used for the purpose of exporting great quantities of grain and meal, as also the goods manufactured in the town and neighbourhood. The fishing on the Tay is very considerable, and yields a large annual sum to the proprietors, who let it to tuckermen, at certain rents, who cure and export prodigious numbers of salmon to many different places.

In ancient times, Perth was the favourite residence of the Scottish princes, and previous to the reign of James II. the kings were crowned at Scoon, a palace still standing a few miles from the town; but, after that period, their chief abode was Holyrood-House, in Edinburgh, whither also the parliament and courts of justice were removed, and continued to be held, before the former was united with that of England. At the south end of a street, named the Watergate, stands the ancient dwelling of the Gowry family, now converted into an artillery barrack, and wearing a very decaying and gloomy appearance. The church, in which the famous Knox vociferated his doctrines, is at present divided into three places of worship, and one of these, though not magnificently, is commodiously fitted up in the modern taste.

Of the Carthusian monastery, established by James I. and also the scene of his most treacherous murder, not a vestige now remains, excepting some of the stones on which there had been inscriptions and carving, now almost obliterated, to be seen in one of the porches of St. John's Church. Of a building so disgraced, it was but proper, that not one stone should be left upon another to remind posterity of such an atrocious act of wickedness and ingratitude.

During the time of the annual hunt, which usually continues at least a week, Perth is the scene of much gaiety, and various amusements are carried on with great spirit; nor is it at any time a place of dullness, for, besides being a thoroughfare from Edinburgh to the north, it is the residence of many genteel families, and in its neighbourhood are the seats of numerous persons of opulence and distinction.

At the west end of the town, commodious horse barracks

have been of late erected, and in the same quarter many new buildings have been, and still are, raising in a stile of considerable taste and elegance.

A few miles distant from the town, and higher up the river, an extensive bleach-field now occupies the space where, in the year 970, a decisive victory was gained over the Danes, by the intrepid and wonderful conduct of a peasant of the name of Hay, who, with his two sons, was at work in an adjoining field, when he perceived his countrymen beginning to give way, when seizing the yokes from the necks of his oxen in the plough, and, aided by his gallant children, he flew to the assistance of the almost vanquished Scots, rallied, and led them back to victory and glory; in return for which, his family was ennobled, and those of the name now bearing the title of Errol, still wear the yokes in their arms, with the motto "*Subjugo.*" On the field of battle, which I have omitted to say is called *Luncarty,* many warlike implements and human bones have been at different times discovered. It is now, however, a scene far more agreeable and gratifying to the friend of human nature, or the lover of his country, than when resounding with the clangor of martial instruments, and covered with dead or dying fellow mortals; for it presents a picture of prosperity and industry, of chearfulness and active labour, few can behold without emotions of pleasure and highest gratification.

But the transactions on the plains of Luncarty were not the only scenes of warfare and of bloodshed which took place in the vicinity of Perth. At a subsequent period, upon a spot of ground which lays near to the bridge, on the banks of the river, and denominated the *North Inch,* a desperate combat betwixt two rival clans was, by permission of the monarch, Robert III. decided about the end of the fourteenth century; an era when those rivalships and disputes usually cost much bloodshed, and when to settle differences in an amicable manner was as little known as practised. Having obtained permission to decide the affair in the way most suited to their fierce contentious nature, a certain number of each clan were chosen as champions to fight their adversaries, until one of the parties should be completely vanquished, when the conquerors, as if to stimulate them to still greater exertions, were to be favoured with the royal pardon for all past misdemeanors and offences against their king and country, a reward perhaps the most acceptable they could have been promised, as, in all probability, the faults of both parties were numerous, and such as they dreaded the punishment of. Upon the day appointed, his majesty, attended by a train of gallant nobles, repaired to witness the decision of the battle; and, all things being arranged in proper form and order,

thirty young warriors of the clan *Chattan,* appeared prepared to oppose an equal number of the clan *Kay ;* but, upon mustering their forces, one of the former proved to be missing, and for a while the eager champions were compelled to restrain their ardour, and await the arrival of another to the number : none, however, could immediately be found inclined to hazard his life on the occasion, and it was proposed to withdraw one of the opposite party ; but there again a difficulty occurred, none would give up his place. In this dilemma, a person of the name of *Wynd,* a saddler, offered himself as a substitute for the deserter, upon condition of receiving a gratuity in money, amounting to no more than *seven and sixpence* of our present coin, which being instantly granted to him, the combat commenced with incredible fury ; but, through the superior skill of Wynd, the clan Chattan proved victorious, one only of their adversaries having escaped with life, while ten of themselves, though wounded, remained still able to continue the battle, had their services been wanting. Whether Wynd recovered of his wounds, to enjoy the reward of his prowess, seems unknown ; but certain it is, he was long considered as a hero of uncommon bravery, and distinguished skill in the art of fighting, then in general use.

Upon the opposite side of the river, and a little way below the town, there is a lofty eminence called Kinnoul Hill, respecting the name of which there is a legend, which, though succeeding generations have not implicity credited, is nevertheless still related, and even by some of our best tourists mentioned in their accounts of Perth. To us it was told by a countryman we met during a ramble over part of the hill, who appeared to harbour not a doubt of the fact being just as he described, which briefly was as follows : that in former times, when Perth stood at some distance from the scite of the present town, and higher up the Tay, a sudden and impetuous flood inundated the low grounds in the vicinity of the river, sweeping away almost the whole of the buildings in its course, together with the inhabitants and their property ; and, in the general wreck, it carried off the cradle, containing the infant son of the king, who, unable to save his child, yet wild with distraction at his loss, hurried along the river's bank, until arriving at the spot where the Tay sweeps boldly round the point of a hill, he beheld his hopes entirely at an end, and the baby carried down the stream with a swiftness that defied all human power to withstand, upon which, no longer able to restrain the violence of his grief, he is said to have howled in the most frightful manner, and from thence the hill, near which he stood, was named *Kinghowl,* or, as it is now pronounced, *Kinnoul :* a name that now gives the title of an earl to the chief of a noble family in the neighbourhood. Of the

truth or falsity of the above tradition, I cannot pretend to decide, nor is it a matter of sufficient consequence to puzzle one's self greatly about; certain however it is, Kinnoul Hill forms one of the most striking objects in the environs of Perth, and on different parts of it pebbles of extraordinary beauty have been found, and disposed of at very high prices to the curious. Its summit, which is extremely rugged, is crowned with wood, and on various parts of its sides there are large plantations of pines, and other trees, whose dark and varied shades form an admirable contrast to the rocks and precipices which, at intervals, appear projecting far beyond their foliage.

The Grampian Mountains, which divide the kingdom of Scotland almost from the western to the eastern shore, pass through the county of Perth, and on its southern quarter, another range of high hills separate it from Fifeshire; these are called the Ochills, a corruption of Oak-Hills, it being said, that once they were entirely covered with the finest oaks; but if they really were, great pains must have been used to destroy every vestige of the same, not a single tree, or scarce a bush of any kind, being now to be seen upon them.

Perthshire sends only one member to parliament, and the town joins with other burghs in electing one also.

Being desirous of viewing the spot where formerly the kings of Scotland received a crown, which seldom lightly sat upon their brows, we took a ride one afternoon, during our stay at Perth, to Scoon, which, though little is now to be seen to gratify the researches of the curious gleaner, or gratify a stranger, is nevertheless by no means unworthy of a visit. The palace, now the property of a nobleman of high rank, is situated a short distance from the Tay, about seven miles from Perth, and was began to be built by the Earl of Gowrie, though not completed till the reign of James VI. who bestowed it, with some valuable estates, upon his favourite Gospatric, who, in return for the gift, has his majesty's arms placed in every conspicuous part of the house, which, though large, is not magnificent in its exterior; but some of the apartments are spacious, and retain some vestiges of fading grandeur, and ancient splendid decorations. The tapestry, now indeed much worse by time and want of proper care, has not been badly executed; nor has the roof of the gallery, painted to represent a variety of hunting scenes, been ill done: but the flattering nature of the favourite appears conspicuous in each, in the frequent representations of his sovereign's figure, being the most prominent in every groupe. An abbey, of considerable extent, had formerly been at Scoon, but during the turbulent era of the reformers' devastations, it was destroyed, and not a vestige of its ruins now remains. In the reign

of Edward I. the great old wooden chair, in which so many Scottish monarchs had been crowned, was seized upon, and sent to Westminster Abbey, to the great displeasure of the natives, who viewed its removal from its ancient station with even superstitious dread and apprehension; and to its removal was attributed by many of the ignorant and credulous, the unhappy fate of several of their sovereigns, and their successors.

At Scoon, before the famous battle of Worcester, Charles II. was crowned; and there likewise, many centuries before, Kenneth II. after conquering the Picts, fixed his abode, and from a *tumulus*, called the Moat Hill, delivered his well known laws, known by the title of "*The Mac Alpine Laws.*"

Though there was little to be seen at Scoon, which most persons would have accounted interesting or agreeable, we were far from thinking our trouble ill-repaid by a sight of that once important place; and we returned to Perth, towards the close of evening, well pleased with our excursion, and looking forward with high raised hopes of future gratification in the prosecution of our northern tour; which, after another night spent in the excellent inn we had been recommended to fix our abode at, during our stay (the Salutation), we recommenced, and early in the morning proceeded towards Cupar-in-Angus, of which I shall more fully inform my readers in the following chapter.

CHAP. V.

CUPAR-IN-ANGUS.—GLAMIS.—THE CASTLE.—MURDER OF MALCOLM II.—PLEASING SCENERY.—FORFAR.—ITS LOCH—NOW NEARLY DRAINED.—ROAD TO BRECHIN.—BRECHIN CASTLE DEFENDED WITH GREAT BRAVERY IN 1303.—THE TOWN.—ITS MANUFACTURES—THE CHURCH AND CURIOUS TOWER—REMARKABLE BATTLE FOUGHT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DURING THE REIGN OF JAMES II.—LAURENCEKIRK.—ITS WRETCHED AND DECAYING APPEARANCE.—THE INN.—THE LIBRARY.—PORTRAITS OF THE WORTHIES, &c. &c.—STONEHAVEN.—CASTLE OF DUNNETLER.—APPROACH TO ABERDEEN BRIDGE ACROSS THE DEE.—OLD AND NEW ABERDEEN.—THE CATHEDRAL AND UNIVERSITY IN THE FORMER.—ITS PLEASANT SITUATION.—THE RIVER DON, &c. &c.—ABERDEEN.—ITS TRADE, MANUFACTURES, AND POPULATION, SITUATION AND SIZE, &c. &c.—ITS BUILDINGS—MARKETS—CHURCHES—UNIVERSITY.—RIVER DEE.—POLICE OF THE TOWN.—ABERDEENSHIRE.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, &c.

As we purposed returning in the course of a few weeks to Perth, we deferred our visit to Dundee and the beautiful vale, usually denominated the Carse of Gowrie, until we were on our way back; and, therefore, having crossed the Tay by the magnificent bridge, already mentioned, we pursued the road that opened to us on the left, and proceeded towards Cupar-in-Angus (so called to distinguish it from another town of the same name in Fifeshire). At some miles distance from Perth we passed *Dunsinane*, on which a modern house now rears its splendid front amidst extensive plantations, which, in the space of a few years, will prove a wonderful addition to the appearance of that part of the country, there being at present rather a scarcity of wood betwixt Perth and Cupar, and a barrenness in the general aspect of the whole of the adjacent country, fatiguing to the eye, and very uninteresting to a passenger.

Cupar is but a small, irregularly built town, and contains nothing worthy of observation, not having even cleanliness in its streets, or comfort in the appearance of its houses, to render it in any manner pleasing. The ride from thence to Glamis, how-

ever, in a great measure, compensates for the disagreeableness of the former stage, and becomes, at every step, more interesting and delightful:—views present themselves; the country becomes more rich, and highly cultivated; neat and substantial farm-houses appear; on every side the fields are inclosed by thriving hedges and rows of trees; and, on the whole, the country upon either hand, as far as the eye can reach, may justly be accounted beautiful in no small degree, and equal to many districts in the southern counties of England.

Glamis, though usually called a town, deserves no other appellation than a small and paltry village, being, in fact, no more than a cluster of wretched habitations, apparently the abode of persons only in the lower class of society. The inn is a very indifferent one; but as we had no intention of passing the night there, and merely stopped for the purpose of visiting the castle, we were careless as to its uncomfortable appearance, and spent as short a time in it as possible. The persons who kept it seemed extremely civil, and desirous of obliging; and civility makes up to those, who are not inclined to be unreasonable for a number of deficiencies.

Glamis Castle, which, for several generations, has belonged to the Earls of Strathmore, is a large, heavy, gloomy structure, irregularly built, and presenting an appearance, though in the midst of fertility and smiling cultivation, well suited to the perpetration of those horrid deeds, which, on different occasions, have stained its name with blood. In this decaying and desolate-looking pile, Malcolm II. was barbarously murdered by some of his discontented subjects, who, being admitted to his bed-chamber by a domestic they had bribed, most cruelly and treacherously put a period to the existence of their monarch, whose death, however, Providence, with unerring justice, speedily avenged: the cruel traitors, fearful of detection, and dreading pursuit, having hastily proceeded from the scene of their baseness, and there being a quantity of snow upon the ground at the time of their flight, they mistook their road, incautiously ventured to regain it by crossing a loch near Forfar, on the ice, which breaking beneath their weight, they were instantly swallowed up, and their bodies remained undiscovered till the departure of the frost, when they were found, and, as a mark of ignominy, hung on the highway near to the scene of their guilty deed. Buchannan says, the year in which this murder was committed "was a year of prodigies; for in the winter the rivers did mightily overflow, and in the spring there were great inundations of the sea; and, moreover, a few days after the summer solstice, there were very severe frosts and deep snows, which quite spoiled the fruits of the earth, and thereupon fol-

lowed a grievous famine." What effect his death could have upon the state of the atmosphere or the ocean, I leave to those endowed with clearer comprehension, and genius stronger, in the solution of mysterious events, than mine; all I shall add upon the subject is, that Malcolm II. reigned above thirty years, and justly deserved to have been numbered amongst the best of those monarchs, who, in early ages, filled the Scottish throne.

Were Glamis Castle razed from the foundation, and another more chearful-looking mansion erected a little higher up the lawn, a finer situation could not be desired, nor one that might be rendered more agreeable in almost every point of view. The lawn, which is extensive, and broken into several charming inequalities, is finely diversified with wood, and commands a delightful prospect over the adjacent rich and fertile valley of Strathmore, a plain so called, many miles in length, of considerable breadth, and bounded upon one side by the Grampian Hills, and on the other by a chain of heights charmingly varied to the very summits by neat inclosures, decent cottages, and thriving plantations of pines and other forest trees. On one side of the lawn is a pretty woody dell, through which a small stream murmurs, sometimes entirely hid from observation by the overhanging branches, at others seen glistening amongst the leaves, and contributing greatly to the charms of a spot nature has done much to render lovely. It was a most delightful afternoon on which we viewed the scenery round Glamis Castle: the sky was cloudless; and the sun, though warm, was not too bright to incommode us, or throw a glaring light upon the surrounding objects, while the remains of a recent shower still hung upon the leaves of the fine old trees, whose boughs, extending far beyond their darkened trunks, hung over the path we trod, and shed a sweet perfume around. Numbers of cattle grazed upon the verdant lawn; hundreds of feathered songsters joined in concert with the melancholy murmurs of the little brook that babbled through the dell; the dark brown turrets of the castle, rising amidst surrounding woods, had at a little distance both a venerable and majestic appearance; while far before us stretched the fertile valley and the rugged Grampians, together forming one of the most charming landscapes we had ever beheld, and such, as will not easily be erased from my memory, which, alas! too frequently I have had occasion to accuse of being too retentive, too apt to recur to scenes far less agreeable in the recollection than the one above described.

At Forfar, a small town six miles distant from Glamis, we halted for the night; but in it there was little to attract attention, or gratify curiosity. The inhabitants, in number about four thousand, are principally employed in the manufacture of coarse

linens, shoes, &c. It is a burgh, and ranks amongst the first in political sway in the number it is joined with, in its parliamentary representation. The loch in its vicinity, so fatal to the assassins of Malcolm, has been of late years almost entirely drained, and produces an excellent kind of marle, which has proved of essential service to the neighbouring farmers in the cultivation of their lands, some of which are in a high state of improvement. The inn is a large and rather comfortable house, compared with some others we have met with on our journey.

From Forfar to Brechin, a stage of eighteen miles, the country still presents a pleasing appearance; and several pretty seats, as well as ancient castles, were observed by us at no great distance from the road, but none of them of sufficient consequence to induce us to visit them. Crossing the South Esk river by an ancient bridge, we shortly after came in sight of Brechin Castle, a seat belonging to the Honourable W. Maule, of Panmure, a large heavy building, erected on the scite of that which was besieged by the English forces in 1303, and so bravely defended by Sir Thomas Maule against the efforts of Edward III. till a period was put to his existence by a stone thrown from an engine, and also to the courage of his adherents, who no sooner lost their gallant commander, than they hastened to deliver up the place, after having resisted the attacks of the besiegers for more than three weeks. The present mansion was erected in 1711, by James Earl of Panmure; but neither the beauty of its situation, nor the order of the grounds, are very attractive to a passenger.

Brechin is a small but rather pleasant town, containing one pretty good street, and some of lesser note, in which there are a few genteel modern houses, but no public buildings of any consequence. The Esk, which laves its southern extremity, is a stream of tolerable width and magnitude, which falls into the sea at Montrose, some miles distant from Brechin. The principal manufactures are coarse linens and Osnaburghs, and it is one of four royal burghs, which unite in electing a member to serve in parliament. The church, a gothic structure of considerable magnitude, is partly ruinous, and partly kept in repair for the purpose of divine worship. Brechin having been a bishopric founded by David I. it had a cathedral, of which the above formed a part. At a short distance from the church, a tower of singular form and appearance still stands. It is of a circular shape, eighty feet in height, and in circumference about forty-eight, the top being crowned with an octagonal spire twenty-four feet high, containing several small windows resting upon the upper part of the tower, and near to these are others of a similar form in the building itself, which, it is confidently as-

serted, has been observed to shake during high winds, yet has never sustained the slightest injury by their violence; a circumstance I am rather inclined to doubt the truth of; and unless I had the fact attested by better authority than common report, I must persist in imagining its tremor was rather owing to a failure in the optics of the beholders, than a real motion in the building, which appears capable of withstanding the most violent gales for ages to come. Towards its base are two arches in relief, with some rudely-sculptured figures of animals at each corner, and between the mouldings; but for what purpose such an edifice has ever been erected, seems very doubtful, as it could not, in the situation it is placed in, be meant as a watch-tower; nor does it appear to have been a place of worship, or even of confinement; a variety of conjectures have been formed upon the subject, but all have proved insufficient to elucidate the mystery. The ruins of an hospital founded by William De Brechin, in 1256, are yet to be seen, but they present nothing curious or meriting notice. The spot on which the Culdees had a convent, is still pointed out, but the building is entirely gone.

In the neighbourhood of Brechin, a remarkable battle was fought in the reign of James II. of Scotland; the cause of which was, the assassination of the Earl of Douglas, in Stirling Castle, by his sovereign, whose conduct, upon that occasion, added to the former indignation of many of his nobles, afforded them a pretext for breaking into rebellion, which, having once done, they boldly encountered the royal forces near to the town of Brechin. Here a bloody contest ensued, and ended in the victory being obtained by the king's troops, in consequence, it is said, of the desertion of one of the rebel chiefs, together with a division of their army under the command of the Earl of Crawfurd, who, seeing himself thus treacherously abandoned by his followers, and having lost one of his brothers in the conflict, fled to his castle of Findhaven, at a little distance from the spot, where, in the first transports of rage and disappointment, he declared, "that he would be content to remain for seven years in hell to have performed such a signal to his king, as the Earl of Huntly, who commanded the royal forces, had done that day;" an expression we can only suppose resulting from frenzy and wounded pride, not seriously and deliberately considered upon. Of the numbers who fell on either side, no particular mention is made by any of our historians, though all agree in saying they were considerable; and that the victorious leader was rewarded by a grant of lands in the northen part of the kingdom, in the neighbourhood of his family estates.

Having spent one night at Brechin, we proceeded on the following morning to Laurencekirk, a village erected by the late

Lord Gardenstone (one of the lords of session), and represented by his lordship, and others, as one of the most flourishing and neatest little places in the kingdom. That vanity and partiality for a work of his own creation, might prompt the founder to consider it in a favourable light, I do not doubt; but why so many others, who could not be influenced by either of those causes, should have extolled its beauty, regularity, and prosperous state, is to me most unaccountable, if they really ever saw the wretched little hamlet, composed of a cluster of ill-built, mean, and dirty cottages, in a very indifferent part of the country, at least a part which has no natural beauties to recommend it to notice, and even yet but few artificial ones, though the soil is said to be good, and fit for all the purposes of husbandry. With only one house of decent appearance, and that one the inn, with no manufactures established in it of any kind of consequence, and, on the whole, a shabby, dirty, little place, Laurencekirk at no time merited the attention of strangers, and now still less than ever is it worthy of their notice. The inn, however, is a pretty good one; and adjoining to it is a small library, erected by his lordship, for the purpose of containing a few books for the amusement of travellers; but the collection was never great, and the selection very moderate; some coarse shells, minerals, &c. were also placed there, and probably, by the ignorant, considered as curiosities; but, in fact, they were only of the most common and indifferent sorts, and rather calculated to draw forth a sneer, than to excite admiration, in even moderate judges. An *alburn* also was kept there, in which it was expected all travellers who stopped at the inn would insert their names, and any extempore pieces they were capable of composing; by which means much was written that reflected little credit on the authors' wit or delicacy, and instead of the flattering eulogiums, no doubt expected to be lavished on his lordship's taste, his munificence, and patriotic spirit, there were many ill-natured, vulgar, and unjust passages inserted, which, in place of rendering it a source of amusement to delicate or impartial readers, made it a vehicle of slander and gross ribaldry. In the best room in the inn there are a number of portraits, likenesses of the neighbouring farmers, which were painted by an itinerant artist at the desire of his lordship, and also at his expence, and termed the *worthies*. They are mere daubs; but they pleased the singular character who ordered them, and that was sufficient.

From Laurencekirk to Stonehaven, a pretty large town upon the coast, fourteen miles from the former, the country presents neither pleasing nor interesting scenery; and though a considerable portion of it yields good crops of corn, the deficiency

of wood and hedges, give it a bare and cold appearance. About two miles from the town, some extensive plantations upon the estate of the late Mr. Allardyce, are in a very thriving condition, and already a great addition to the view.

Stonehaven is neither a well built nor a handsome town, but it is nevertheless in a flourishing state, and has a decent harbour for small vessels, carries on a brisk trade, particularly in the coasting line, and has a tolerable manufactory of coarse linens and sail-cloth. High rocky precipices overhang one side of the town, whose bases are washed by the sea, and are of a darkish colour, bold, rugged, and steep, extending along the shore to a considerable distance, and bearing on the summit of one of the loftiest, the ruins of Dunnotler Castle. Having leisure to spend a few hours in visiting that once celebrated fortress, we pursued our way to it on foot, and were amply repaid for the fatigue of a walk in a very warm afternoon, by the charms of the prospect from the castle, and the refreshing breezes off the sea. A serene and purely azure sky was reflected on the surface of the wide expanse of water, that stretched much farther than our straining eyes could reach, and on its glassy and almost unruffled bosom several vessels were just then gliding past, their white sails fluttering in the lightly passing breeze, and forming a striking contrast to their darkened sides, which, with a gentle undulating motion, floated on the waves, while not a sound broke in upon the stillness of the scene, except the low and hollow murmurs of the water striking upon the rocks beneath our feet, or at intervals the wild screams of the sea fowls, which hovered round the cliffs, and breed in astonishing numbers amongst the precipices that bound the shore: in short, a scene more beautifully interesting could scarcely be conceived, than that which met our eyes, whilst wandering among the ruins of Dunnotler Castle. In former times, this once extensive fortress was the residence of the noble family of Keith, Earls of Marischall, the last of whom unfortunately engaged in the rebellion in 1745, and the title, with the estates, became the forfeit of his rashness. Seated upon a bold and lofty rock, projecting into the sea, and separated from the adjacaent country by a deep ravine, nature as well as art appear to have contributed towards rendering it a place of strength; and in days of yore, it was deemed one of the most impregnable situations in the kingdom. Surrounded nearly by the sea, the only entrance it had, was a narrow arched gateway, at the top of a steep path, which wound up from the depth that separated it from the neighbouring lands, defended by two small towers, beneath which were the dungeons for prisoners, and guarding a large area, encompassed by high walls, now fallen to decay; next which, there were buildings

supposed to be perfectly secure from all attacks, and appropriated to various purposes. A deep well in the inner court supplied the inhabitants with water, and the country-folks around imagine there are treasures of great value still undiscovered in its deep recesses. A secret communication in a hollow of the rock enabled the besieged to receive supplies by sea, and, upon different occasions, it was found of service as an avenue to escape by. Dunnotler has certainly been an extensive, but by no means handsome building; at present it is in a most dilapidated state, and, in my opinion, its principal recommendation to the notice of strangers consists in the view of the ocean it commands.

Returning again to Stonehaven, much pleased with our excursion, we re-entered the carriage, and proceeded along an excellent road, but through a dreary dismal tract of country, towards Aberdeen, at the distance of two miles from which, we crossed the river Dee, by an ancient and stately bridge, erected at the expence of Bishop Elphinstone, and shortly after found ourselves in the midst of a bustling populous city, where we purposed remaining for some days.

Aberdeen is divided into what is termed the Old and New Towns, both situated betwixt the rivers Dee and Don, two broad and rapid streams, which, after running many miles along the country, from its highest point, fall into the sea at the distance of two miles from each other, and in the vicinity of the town.

The Old Town is a place of very great antiquity, but by whom, or exactly at what period, it was founded, I could not learn; it is however mentioned as a place of note so early as the year 893; and in the reign of David I. a bishopric established in Banffshire, was translated to Aberdeen; and in 1160, the bishop received a new charter from Malcolm—some privileges being also granted by Alexander II. similar to those bestowed on Perth. The cathedral, once a stately edifice, is now entirely destroyed, excepting two antique and handsome spires, and one aisle, now used as a church; and if we may judge from the appearance of these, it had been a building of more than ordinary grandeur. The University, called King's College, was founded by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, about the year 1494; but James IV. claiming the right of patronage, it has, since his days, been denominated the King's College. It is a spacious structure, forming a square, with cloisters on the southern side, and has a chapel, which, though in a state of ruin, exhibits some curious remains of carvings in wood, executed in a singularly beautiful manner,

which had it not been for the determined spirit of the *Principal* of the College, would, at the era of the Reformation, have fallen a sacrifice to furious bigotry and mistaken zeal; but with a degree of courage and perseverance worthy of being remembered, he armed a few adherents, and preserved these specimens of Gothic grandeur from the rage of the spoilers, who, not content with stripping the cathedral of its roof, and seizing on its bells, were proceeding to demolish this ancient seat of learning, and unquestionably would have accomplished their design, but for the heroism and bravery of the valiant *Principal*. The steeple is uncommonly magnificent, and is built in the form of a double cross, with arches, terminated by an Imperial crown, supported by eight pillars, and surmounted by a globe and gilt crosses, forming a most singular appearance, and, when viewed from the adjacent heights, producing a very fine effect. The library is a spacious apartment, containing a valuable collection of books, manuscripts, and a few good paintings. Boethius was the first principal of King's College, and was brought from Paris to take upon himself that office, at a very trifling salary, yet deemed sufficient in those days to enable him to support the dignity of his station in a suitable and proper manner.

In point of situation, the Old Town is infinitely more agreeable than the New, and many of the houses belonging to the professors, and other genteel persons are very pleasantly situated, each having a garden and small pleasure-grounds adjoining, which add greatly to their convenience and appearance, and give the town much of the air of a neat retired English village; for though so near the New Town, there is none of the bustle, noise, and confusion of the latter in its streets, but all is calmness and serenity. It is governed by a provost, and other magistrates, distinct from those of Aberdeen, and has also a weekly market and several annual fairs of its own. At a short distance from its northern boundary, the river Don unites itself with the sea; and about half a mile from its mouth, there is a handsome Gothic bridge of one arch, romantically placed between two rocky points, projecting from opposite steep banks, adorned with brushwood, and diversified by lofty crags of various shapes and colours. The arch is sixty-seven feet wide at bottom, and thirty-four above the level of the water at ebb-tide. The Don produces excellent salmon, and the fishery lets at very high rates. Its banks for several miles are pretty, and present a busy and a pleasing scene, in which are to be seen a variety of neatly ornamented villas, well-built substantial cottages, and several extensive cotton manufactories, large bleach-fields, and a printing-house, where very handsome calicos are finished in good taste; the whole affording employment to many hundred

persons of all ages, and appearing to be in the most prosperous and flourishing state.

The New Town of Aberdeen is now accounted the third in point of size, of commerce, and of population, in Scotland, and is unquestionably, at present, a place of considerable importance. It is the capital of the county, and, in conjunction with the burghs of Montrose, Arbroath, and Bervie, sends one member to the senate. Situated on an eminence, it overlooks an extensive bason formed by the Dee, bounded upon the south by the termination of the Grampian Hills, which abruptly end at the entrance of the harbour, and still preserve even to the last their rugged aspect, being covered with "dark brown heath," intermixed with craggy heights, to their very termination in the sea. The harbour was formerly both dangerous and difficult of access, owing to the narrow entrance, betwixt the point of the Grampian Hills and a long, flat, sandy beach, which frequently obstructed the passage by the heaps drifted thence in strong easterly winds, which, though often cleared away, again accumulated, and, in consequence, many lives were lost, and much valuable property destroyed, by the frequent wrecking of vessels attempting to cross the bar; to avoid which evil, the town erected some years ago a strong pier on the north side of the harbour, which has effectually prevented the mischiefs arising from the sand, and gives, where there was formerly only a few feet of water, a depth of eight fathoms; consequently, vessels of considerable burden now enter in safety, and are moored alongside the quay, at the lower part of the town, where the bustle and appearance of business continually going forward proclaim the prosperous and thriving state of the place.

The trade consists principally in the exportation of the different articles manufactured in the town and neighbourhood, such as stockings, threads, calicos, &c. besides an immense quantity of salmon, fresh, pickled, and dried; pickled pork (accounted of superior quality), butter, cheese, grain, and annually above twenty thousand pounds worth of stones, for paving the streets of London, building wet-docks, &c. &c. The quarries in the neighbourhood are inexhaustible, and the stone, a sort of granite, is of a very good colour, and of a durable and superior quality. The imports are various articles from the Baltic, America, and the West India Islands. There is also a prodigious coasting trade carried on with all the ports from London to the Orkneys; and to Shetland there is a regular packet established, for the conveyance of passengers and goods once every month. The herring-fishery is now an object of consideration, and large quantities of these little useful fish are cured for exportation at Aberdeen. Some vessels are also employed

in the whale-fisheries at Greenland and Davis's Streights, which have had good success. Sea-fish of all kinds are in great abundance, and remarkably cheap: the finest turbot seldom exceeding a shilling each; a large cod fish, eight or nine-pence; whitings, haddocks, lobsters, crabs, shrimps, plaice, flounders, and trouts of the richest flavour, and large size, equally reasonable, and in abundance. Indeed, an epicure who wished to feast on fish, need only fix his residence at Aberdeen, to have his palate gratified to the utmost of his wishes, if it were possible fully to satisfy the desires of such a person. With meat of every kind, with grain, poultry, butter, cheese, &c. the markets are amply supplied, and in general at very reasonable prices. The shops are numerous, and fully stocked with every necessary and ornamental article of dress or luxury, even more so than in many large towns, which is probably owing to the cheap conveyance of goods by sea from London, scarce a day passing over without witnessing the departure or arrival of a vessel to and from that and other ports.

Though Aberdeen is not to be accounted a handsome town, it is by no means so ugly as some persons have represented it; and when all the improvements now projected, and carrying on with great spirit, are completed, it will be rather a place of good appearance. One great disadvantage, and which tends to impress a stranger with the idea of meanness in its buildings, is the practice of laying out the ground floors of the best houses in shops, and often having the entrance into them within dark, dismal, dirty courts, or, as they are there called, *closes*, where low and vulgar wretches are perpetually to be seen loitering in the gateway, to the inconvenience and annoyance of all who have occasion to push their way through them. Most of the buildings are of the granite already mentioned in this chapter, which is capable of receiving a good polish, and when hewn, as is now the general practice, makes a very fine appearance, preserving its colour for ages, and its firmness also. In Castle Street, the broadest in the town, stands the town-house, the jail, and a large building called the New Inn, which form one handsome structure, and were, till lately, accounted the best in the place. Nearly opposite to these, the Aberdeen banking-company have lately erected an elegant and spacious structure, containing a noble suite of apartments for the transaction of business; and above these, others, suitably magnificent, for the accommodation of the cashier. This noble edifice is stated to have cost ten thousand pounds in erecting and finishing; a sum, report, I imagine, does not greatly exaggerate; but the company is one of the most respectable and flourishing in the kingdom, and consequently were well entitled to a suitable suite of offices. The Register-

Office is also in Castle Street; a neat small edifice of stone, but awkwardly placed, rather at one corner. The Theatre, in Marischal Street, is new, and neatly fitted-up, and has frequently a very tolerable set of performers on its boards. There are several large and proper places of divine worship in different parts of the town, but that now forming two churches, called the East and West Kirks, is the handsomest of the number; the former contains some remains of ancient splendour, and curious carved work; but the latter has been stripped of all its ornaments, and is now quite plain and unadorned. Not far from these churches stands the Grammar School, a low but neat building, with a court in front, separated from the street by an iron railing; and a little further on is Gordon's Hospital, a spacious structure endowed by a Mr. Gordon, several years ago, for the support and education of sixty boys, sons of decayed burgesses, who are there maintained until they are of an age to be apprenticed out to different trades. The health, morals, and education of the children strictly attended to; and indeed their appearance evinces the uncommon care that is taken of them in every respect. Their dress is of plain blue cloth, and distinguished only from that of other boys by a blue worsted bonnet, instead of a hat. A large garden is annexed to this building, separated from the hospital by a neat flower-plot, and is constantly open to all persons who choose to walk in it. At stated times, the boys are permitted to visit their friends, as well as to take sufficient exercise. The Infirmary is also near this quarter of the town, and is a large building, with a good garden belonging to it, well situated, and adapted for the use of the patients. An Asylum for Lunatics is a little way beyond the above, erected lately, on a dry and healthy spot. In the lower part of the town are some remains of a convent, inhabited by monks of the order of the Trinity, but they do not merit particular description; and the other religious houses, of which there were several, are now quite destroyed, and have left "not a wreck behind." The barracks on the site of the old castle, or what is still called the Castle Hill, are new, and rather handsome, on an airy height, overlooking the harbour and bay, a part of the town, and a considerable extent of country. To the eastward of these is a small round hill, from the summit of which the view is extensive; and thither the citizens of the middling and lower classes daily resort for the purpose of walking, and enjoying the refreshing sea-breezes. Below this hill, for a considerable distance, the ground is flat and cultivated; and next to the sea, is an extensive common, called the *Links*, separated from the ocean by a range of sandy-heights, covered with a species of long straggling grass called *bents*, used some-

times for the purpose of making mats; but prohibited from being pulled entirely up, as its roots are the only prevention to the sands overspreading the adjacent lands, which it did, in a similar situation, in the county of Moray, to the destruction of much property and several lives. St. Paul's Chapel, the principal place of worship appropriated to the use of those who profess the doctrines of the Church of England, is a neat commodious building, surmounted by a handsome dome, and contains an organ of uncommon sweetness, to which justice is done by Mr. Ross, the principal music-teacher in the town, whose compositions, particularly his sonatas, are extremely pleasing, and merit being more known than they are.

The town is governed by a provost, and other proper officers; has a large custom-house, I believe the only one at present established in the North, and several banks. The population of the Old and New Town is estimated at nearly thirty-six thousand souls.

The Marischal College, or University of Aberdeen, which, with all due respect to it, I had almost totally forgotten to mention, is a plain edifice, surrounding a large court, and founded in 1593, by the Earl of Marischal, having a good library, and some few natural curiosities and antiquities, worthy of notice. A number of students are annually instructed both there and in King's College, and both are superintended by able professors of the different sciences. In the same street is a neat concert-room, in which there are weekly concerts during the winter-season; and in the principal inns there are large ball-rooms, but none of them are handsomely decorated, or remarkable for cleanliness. Coals, though brought from Newcastle and Sunderland, are very reasonable at Aberdeen; and peat is also sold cheap, but little used, excepting for kindling fires. There is a weekly newspaper printed in the town, and the coffee-houses and news-rooms are well supplied with the best London and provincial papers. Of booksellers shops there are many, and at least two of the best circulating libraries in Britain.

The soil in general in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen is naturally indifferent and unfruitful, but money and perseverance overcome many obstacles, and both have been employed in no small degree to render it more fertile and of better appearance; in consequence of which, and of the encreasing opulence of the citizens, lands in the environs and houses in the town have advanced astonishingly in value, nor are they yet arrived at their utmost extent.

The county of Aberdeen is one of the largest in Scotland, and contains no less than eighty parishes. It is divided into three districts, viz. Mar, Buchan, and Aberdeen; in the former there

still are forests of considerable extent, and in no part of the county is there so great a scarcity of wood as some tourists have asserted, though it must be owned, the general want of hedges, and the bare stone-walls inclosing the fields, give a naked aspect to the country, and to an English traveller, accustomed to the richness of the southern or western counties, the deficiency in these must no doubt be very striking. Neither the Dee nor Don are navigable above the town; on their banks there are many pleasant seats, and, on the former in particular, a number of extremely interesting views.

In Aberdeen, the late respectable and worthy Dr. Campbell, who during almost forty years filled the office of Principal of Marischal College, was born about the year 1719. His father was one of the ministers of the established church of Scotland, and under his own eye, his truly amiable son was educated: at an early age, he obtained a living some miles distant from Aberdeen, whither he removed in a few years to supply the place of one of the town's ministers, and shortly afterwards was chosen Principal of the University; from which period to within a few months of his death, he continued to fill his dignified station with the highest honour to himself and benefit to others: but age and infirmities obliged him to resign it; and shortly afterwards he also quitted the world, revered, respected, and admired as a public teacher and a private character, by all who ever had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Chearful, pious, and truly-benevolent, he was peculiarly fitted for the station he occupied, and in the hours of social and domestic intercourse his conversation was uniformly agreeable and instructive; even to the last moments of his life, when heavily pressed on by ill-health and the load of lengthened days, his temper was unimpaired, his gaiety inexhaustible, and his conviction of the truths of christianity, full, perfect, and such as had guided all the actions of his former well-spent life. His treatise written to confute the arguments of Mr. Hume, called "A Dissertation upon Miracles," is too well known to require any comments, and his "Philosophy of Rhetoric," as well as his various sermons, have met with high and merited commendations.

Lord Monboddo, whose eccentric opinions and genius the public are no strangers to, was also a native of Aberdeenshire; but as I have already dwelt rather too long on the account of the town, &c. &c. I shall not attempt an enumeration of the many distinguished characters, who first beheld the light within the boundaries of that extensive county, but hasten to conclude this chapter, and resume the journal of my route towards some of the wild, romantic scenes, it was one of the

chief purposes of the *northern* part of my tour to visit; where Nature, uncontaminated by art, adorned only with her own simple decorations, and undefiled by modern *improvers'* fancied beauties, still preserves her empire.

CHAP. VI.

ROAD TO BANFF.—APPROACH TO THE TOWN.—THE BRIDGE.—THE TOWN.—ITS MANUFACTORIES.—THE DOVERAN.—MACDUFF TOWN.—BANFF CASTLE.—THE CHURCH, DUFF-HOUSE, AND BEAUTIFUL IMPROVEMENTS.—BRIDGE OF ALVA, &c.—ANTIQUITIES DISCOVERED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.—FERGUSON, THE CELEBRATED ASTRONOMER.—RUDDIMAN, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF.—PORTSOY.—CULLEN-HOUSE AND GROUNDS.—THE TOWN.—FOCHABEN.—GORDON-CASTLE.—SPEY RIVER.—ELGIN.—ITS MAGNIFICENT CATHEDRAL.—LOCH OF SPYNIE.—PLUSCARDINE ABBEY, &c. &c.

FROM Aberdeen to Old Meldrum, a small insignificant market-town, about seventeen miles from the former, there is little to interest or attract observation; a few gentlemen's seats with the surrounding plantations, and a small number of half-cultivated farms, at intervals served to vary the prospect; but as for views of a pleasing or picturesque nature, there were none, so that we reached the town above-mentioned, little amused with our ride. We therefore accelerated our departure as much as possible, in the hope of seeing something better in the course of the ensuing stage, but in this we were disappointed, as we continued to pass over a succession of barren and dreary moors, till, on ascending a rising ground, we came in sight of Fyvie Castle, the seat of the Hon. General Gordon. This is a large and antique pile of building, ornamented with lofty towers, pleasantly situated on the confines of an extensive lawn, bounded by thriving woods, and adorned by a piece of water, which, from being once a swamp, is now a beautiful feature in the landscape, and a striking proof of the improver's taste. Near to the castle runs the river Ythan, a stream which rises some miles higher up the country, and, after a pretty long course, falls into the sea on the north-east coast of Aberdeenshire. A few years since, this river was famed for the number and beauty of the pearls found in it, and I have seen some of them of a large size, and very handsome; several were sold at astonishing prices to Jews from London, who,

it may be readily imagined, gave the possessors not one half of their value. Scarce any are now to be found in any part of the river, and the rage for fishing for them, which formerly existed, appears to be quite abated.

Ascending another hill, we took our leave of the pleasant little valley round the small village and church of Fyvie, and again resumed our way across a range of dreary moors with little interruption to the bleakness of the prospect, until we approached the small, but prettily-situated town of Turniff, a place in itself conspicuous for very little, excepting filth, containing scarcely one good house of any tolerable size, though excellently situated for the prosecution of manufactures and bleacheries, neither of which, notwithstanding repeated trials, has been attended with the wished-for success. From the church-yard, into which we strolled whilst the horses were baiting, the prospect of the valley watered by the Doveran, and adorned with several handsome seats, is extremely pleasing, and forms indeed a contrast to the little town itself.

Approaching to Banff, we were, however, gratified with an almost total change of scenery, and once more had the satisfaction of overlooking a well-cultivated tract of country, diversified by numberless interesting and agreeable objects; upon the whole, forming a most delightful landscape, and such as few persons could behold, without experiencing an infinity of pleasing sensations. Before us, on the opposite side of the Doveran, lay the town, bounded on one side by the sea, a charming reach of which stretched far towards the north and was lost to our sight in the distant horizon, seeming to unite with the waves; while on the other side, fine cultivated fields, woods, farms, and neat inclosures, adorned with hedge-rows, and majestic clumps of trees, joined with the beautiful and extensive park belonging to the Earl of Fife, form one of the loveliest scenes imagination can conceive. If to these are added the various windings of the noble river Doveran, sweeping through the domain, and crossed by an elegant bridge near to the lower extremity of the town, it may be truly asserted, that few spots in the north of Scotland contain so many and such varied beauties, as our eyes were feasted with the sight of in the proximity of Banff, particularly as we arrived just as the setting sun's golden beams reflected additional lustre on the surrounding scenery.

Banff, though considerably increased of late years, is yet but a small town, containing only a few handsome houses, and no public edifices of particular magnificence or elegance. It is a royal burgh, and joins with others in the election of one senator. Its trade consists in the exportation of its manufactures, which are rather extensive, and are principally threads, cotton-yarn,

stockings, &c. Salmon, excellent ale, oatmeal, and a considerable quantity of grain, also are exported. The imports are chiefly wood and other articles from the Baltic, lime, coals, &c. &c. for the use of the inhabitants, and those of the adjacent country. The church is modern-built and spacious, but not in any manner highly ornamented. The castle, a large mansion belonging to the Earl of Findlater, is finely situated on an eminence, commanding a view of part of the town, and a considerable extent of the sea, the hill, commonly called "the hill of Down," on the opposite side of the river, the bridge and the little town of Macduff. It is surrounded by pretty pleasure-grounds; and though in fact a town residence, still it enjoys many of the advantages of the country, and, in particular, that of good air. But the principal ornament of the neighbourhood is the fine seat of the Earl of Fife, called Duff-House, where nature and art have been most happily blended, and have produced one of the sweetest spots in Britain. The grounds which extend close to the town (but completely screened from it) extend nearly three miles along each side of the Doveran, which flows in various windings through the park towards the sea, which it joins a short way below the bridge, ornamenting by the beauty of its meanderings, and adding to the Earl's income an annual revenue of nearly two thousand pounds for the fisheries, thus uniting what are rarely joined, the useful and the beautiful. The house stands in an extensive lawn, bounded on one side by fine plantations, and on the other by the river, the opposite bank of which, ascending to a considerable height, is finely diversified by neat enclosures, some pretty farm-houses, clumps of trees, and terminated by a long stretch of wood, extending several miles in view of the mansion, and forming a complete and beautiful background to the landscape. Duff-House was built according to a plan of the ingenious Mr. Adam; but the design has never been completed, and, though a richly-ornamented piece of architecture, the want of wings to the building gives it a bare and unfinished appearance, particularly when viewed at a little distance. The interior, though commodious, is far from being so peculiarly elegant as might be reasonably expected, from the outward appearance of the edifice. The library is a spacious apartment and commands a charming view of the grounds and adjacent scenery. Through a part of the former I shall now conduct my readers, by a walk which skirts along the rising ground, upon the west side of the lawn, leading to a circular mount, from the top of which there is a charming prospect of the river and overhanging woods. Near to that spot stood formerly a monastery of Carmelites, and the mount above-mentioned is said to have been raised by those victims of superstition, on whom the holy

fraternity inflicted penance for their real or imaginary offences. At a little distance is an urn, in which are deposited a number of human bones, found some years since by the earl's workmen, in digging a piece of ground supposed to have been the burial-place belonging to the convent, and by his directions carefully enclosed within a handsome stone urn, erected on the spot where they had formerly been deposited. A little farther on, in one of the most enchanting spots the poet's or the painter's fancy could devise, stands the mausoleum erected by his lordship, for the reception of the remains of his ancestors, who, if they could be permitted to revisit the earth, would view with pleasure and delight the sweetly-sylvan scene around their last abode, and admire the taste which fixed upon a spot so truly lovely, so retired, and so perfectly suited to the purpose. From thence the walks continue still to wind along the side of the bank that overhangs the river, the heights on both sides gradually assuming a more romantic, wilder, and more picturesque appearance, until they nearly join their craggy sides, and are completely united by a bridge of one arch thrown across the river, and resting upon two rocky points placed there apparently by nature for that purpose. Around this spot the scenery is enchantingly romantic; and though the aid of art has no doubt contributed in some measure towards the completion of the whole, her assistance has been so judiciously applied, that unadorned nature still seems to predominate, and gives a charm no human care or pains was ever yet so able to accomplish. Beneath the bridge (which, by the bye, is called the bridge of Alva, from its being in the parish of that name, and the rocks on which it rests, "the Craggs of Alva,") the water rushes with noisy speed along a rocky channel, while on either side, high, broken, pointed cliffs, impending over the stream, jut out into a variety of forms, intermixed with shrubs, tufted with different-coloured mosses, and adorned by long and leafy branches, forcing their way through crevices in the rocks, drooping their heads into the foamy streams, and adding indescribable beauty and variety to the other features of this charming scene. From the bridge of Alva there are also walks cut through the plantations on the opposite side of the river to those already mentioned, which lead in various directions back to the town; or if the rambler chuses to extend his walk into the highway leading to Macduff, a small town nearly a mile from, and on the other side of the Bay, from Banff, which Lord Fife has contributed to enlarge and render of some importance; and for its size, it already carries on a pretty brisk coasting-trade, has a tolerable harbour, and imports large quantities of lime, coal, &c. for the use of the neighbouring district. It is governed by a provost and magistrates distinct from those

of Banff, and in the market-place there is a cross, on which are some sculptured figures, said to have been erected by Macduff, Thane of Fife, and brought thither by the present earl. From their vicinity to the sea, both Banff and Macduff are abundantly supplied with fish of all kinds, at very low prices; and with meat, grain, poultry, &c. the markets are plentifully stored.

Though the appearance of Banff does not denote great opulence in the inhabitants, many affluent and respectable families reside in it; and, in point of constant gaiety and hospitality to strangers, few places of its size can vie with it. The county, like most others in the northern quarter of the island, is composed of various kinds of soil; and though in some parts excellent crops of oats, barley, pease, and flax, are produced, in others the land is only fit for pasture, and great numbers of middling-sized cattle are there reared and sold to drovers, who usually drive some thousands of them annually to England, where they dispose of them to good account. From some antiquities discovered, it is inferred the Romans had at one time penetrated even farther to the north than Banff; and in different parts of the county, the remains of towers, castles, and forts are to be seen, which denote its having been once the abode of warlike inhabitants: but I imagine they are of a more recent date, than the time of the Romans' sojournment in Britain.

In the neighbourhood of Banff, the celebrated self-taught astronomer Ferguson was born, a man whose extraordinary genius is well known to the world, and whose religious and virtuous life rendered himself an object of esteem and admiration to all who were of his acquaintance, or had an opportunity of knowing his worth and goodness. Unaided by early instruction, and reared in the humblest station, his wonderful and aspiring genius led him to search for knowledge with the most unremitting diligence; and such was his attention and extraordinary abilities, that he acquired a tolerable proficiency in reading at an early age, solely from hearing his father, a very poor man, instructing an elder son in that essential branch of education. Being placed, whilst yet a child, in the service of a neighbour in the humble capacity of a cow-herd, he commenced the study of astronomy by forming, from his own observations solely, a celestial globe; after which, by the assistance of a gentleman in the vicinity, he was removed from his lowly situation, and sent to Edinburgh, where he at first employed a portion of his time in painting portraits, in order to realize a little money to enable him to prosecute his deeper studies, in which he soon became so great a proficient, as to be capable of lecturing publicly upon experimental philosophy, and received the highest applause from almost all the learned men in Britain. Honoured with the notice of the king, and admitted

a Fellow of the Royal Society, he soon rose to the eminence he merited, and was considered as the most enlightened of astronomers and mechanics; while his benevolence and humility rendered him universally respected and admired. Pious in his disposition, and unassuming in his deportment, his conversation and manners were guided by urbanity, simplicity, and, as an elegant author expresses it, "by that genuine philanthropy, which comprehends the whole circle of social and moral virtues;" and at his death, which happened in 1776, he left behind him a reputation for integrity, honour, mildness, and surprizing genius, rarely to be equalled in any of these points, and impossible to be excelled.

The famous Ruddiman, the most eminent of Scottish grammarians, was a native of this county. Being only the son of a poor farmer, his education was not conducted on any higher scale, than that of the children of the meanest cottager in Scotland, who are all taught to read and write; but having an ardent desire for learning, and possessing the most unwearied perseverance in his undertaking, he ingratiated himself into the favour of the master of the school he attended, who encouraged his pupil to prosecute his studies; and so great was the youth's anxiety to improve, that, having privately obtained a guinea from a near relation, he set out for Aberdeen, without the knowledge of his father, in order to offer himself a candidate for one of the *Bursaries*, on the foundation of King's College, which young men of circumscribed fortunes endeavour to gain by competition, the annual sum adjudged to the vistors, though a mere trifle, being of consequence to those who are desirous of acquiring knowledge, but have not the means of obtaining it. On his journey, Mr. Ruddiman was attacked by some vagrants, who, not content with robbing him of his little store of wealth, stripped him of the chief part of his cloaths, and in that deplorable condition left him to pursue his journey, or return, overwhelmed with disappointment and chagrin. But what will not an ardent youthful spirit, panting with a thirst for knowledge and unbroken by misfortunes, overcome! Ruddiman, undismayed at what had befallen him, and determined to fulfil his former purpose, pursued his way to Aberdeen, where, though entirely destitute of friends to support him, or even decent cloaths to appear in, he offered himself amongst the candidates for the prize already-mentioned, the first of which he gained. After four years close and unwearied application to his studies, this persevering young scholar obtained the degree of Master of Arts, and, though only twenty years of age, was engaged as private tutor to the son of a gentleman in the North, in which capacity he remained but a short time, quitting for the schoolmastership of Laurencekirk,

where, though the salary was barely sufficient to procure the common necessaries of life, he continued during some years, and might have remained still longer, had not an accidental meeting with the celebrated Dr. Pitcairne procured him the patronage of that gentleman, by whose advice he removed to Edinburgh, and was shortly afterwards appointed assistant keeper of the Advocates' Library, at a small salary; besides which, he gained a trifling sum by copying manuscripts for the use of the library, and teaching young gentlemen the Latin language, his whole income being thus but small, yet sufficient with economy to procure the necessaries, and a few of the conveniences, of living, both luxury and dissipation being foreign to his disposition, and incompatible with his notions of independence. In time, however, his abilities and merit becoming more generally known, his aid was solicited by several literary persons engaged in different publications, and he is said to have assisted some of them in a very material manner; but, as is frequently the case on such occasions, his labours were poorly rewarded, and his profits so trifling, that, finding his finances insufficient for the expences of a growing family, even with the most rigid economy, he commenced the business of an auctioneer, but still was unsuccessful in the road to fortune. He therefore relinquished an occupation little suited to his disposition, and again had recourse to his pen, both writing and correcting many works, amongst the former of which was his celebrated "Rudiments of Latin," a work still held in high estimation, and in general use in all the schools in the kingdom where it was published. Some time afterwards, the Works of Buchanan were given to the world by Mr. Ruddiman, with the addition of some annotations and criticisms on the political History of Scotland; but from his warm espousal of the cause of Mary Stuart, he raised against himself an host of foes, and sowed the seeds of a controversy, which has not yet in all probability entirely ceased, and has been carried on with a degree of rancour and animosity it was by no means worthy of creating. In 1720, he appeared as the conductor of the Caledonian Mercury, an Edinburgh newspaper, which has since maintained its ground against its rivals; and in the course of a few years he published several works, which tended to involve him in various disputes with cotemporary authors, a detail of which it would be unnecessary for me to enter upon, and therefore I shall conclude by saying, that his most implacable enemies and rivals were compelled to acknowledge his character approached as near to excellence in private life, as any man's that ever appeared upon the theatre of the world; that he was pious, religious, temperate, and, in fine, a worthy member of society,

a credit to himself, and an honour to the country which gave him birth.

In these sketches of the lives of Ferguson and Ruddiman, we perceive to what wonderful heights men of aspiring genius will soar, and how many difficulties, insurmountable in idea to the indolent or lazy, their thirst for knowledge, and desire of excelling, enabled them to overcome; while, at the same time, we must not fail to observe, that neither the world's applause, nor the consciousness of superior abilities, had power to rob them of that becoming humility and simplicity of manners, so honourable to themselves, and so truly pleasing in the eyes of others.

Having bid adieu to Banff and its truly pleasant environs, we pursued our route towards the Highlands; and on our way to Cullen, where we purposed stopping to breakfast, passed through a small town upon the coast called Portsoy, in which there is a manufactory of linens, and where there is a tolerable harbour for small vessels employed in the coasting-trade, in the fisheries at the western isles, in exporting grain, &c. In its neighbourhood there is a marble quarry, which produces a species little inferior in appearance, when properly cut and polished, to the solid pieces of the Derbyshire spar, which sells at such exorbitant prices. It seems, however, to be considered of little consequence in the North, though, from the specimens we were shewn, it appears to be of a far superior quality to much that is in use for chimney-pieces, slabs, &c.

Upon a lofty rock projecting into the sea, about half way betwixt Portsoy and Cullen, are the ruins of a castle, apparently of former magnitude and strength, which, being but a few hundred yards from the road, may be visited without much trouble or inconvenience by the curious or *ruin-hunting* traveller. Large it has been, but never either regular or handsome in its exterior; and being now almost entirely unroofed, the apartments present nought to gratify curiosity, or to impress the beholder with an idea of their pristine grandeur.

Of Cullen, little can with justice be said in its praise, being but a small and mean-built town, the principal part of whose inhabitants are employed in manufacturing and bleaching linens, and the country around presenting little also to please the eye of a traveller. The grounds belonging to Cullen-House, the seat of the Earl of Findlater, are, however, worthy of a visit. The house is a large irregular structure, erected on a rocky precipice, near to the entrance of a deep and woody glen, over which a stupendous arch has been thrown, to render the communication with the grounds more easy, these being chiefly on the opposite side

of the valley, which is in some parts extremely picturesque, wild and romantic. Through these there is a pleasant ride along the margin of a little brook; and the woods, though rather neglected, are by no means in an unpromising state. The gardens laid out a few years ago by the present earl are very extensive, and completed at an enormous expence; but as his lordshipusually resides abroad, they are let to a tenant, who of course pays more attention to the profit he derives from them, than to their nicety and good order. Excepting the library, few of the apartments in Cullen-House are worthy of notice; but it is spacious, well-proportioned, and contains a valuable and extensive collection of books, expensively and elegantly bound. A few good paintings are in some of the rooms, and the views from the windows, though confined, are extremely pleasing.

From Cullen to Fochabers the road still runs at no great distance from the sea, of which, at intervals, it commands a view; but, on the other hand, there is little, during the chief part of the stage, to interest or gratify a passenger, the country being, except in a few detached spots near to some gentlemens' seats, ill-cultivated, and destitute of almost every charm. In that district are the remains of several cairns, or barrows, of considerable dimensions, raised, it is probable, by the Danes; also some Danish encampments, but none of them deserving particular attention.

Approaching to Fochabers, we entered some thriving and extensive woods, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, who has planted a stretch of barren moors with firs, and other hardy forest trees, which contribute greatly to the embellishment of that part of the country. Fochabers is a small insignificant town, near to the mouth of the river Spey, and close beside it, on a flat unvaried lawn, stands Gordon-Castle, his Grace's principal residence, and a spacious structure, enlarged, indeed almost entirely built, by the present duke, some years ago. The front of it extends in one straight line no less than five hundred and fifty feet, and, on approaching it, the beholder is struck with its magnitude, though not so greatly with its magnificence. Indifferently situated on an extensive flat, it is encompassed by woods and hills, and destitute of any view beyond the boundaries of the lawn and shrubberies. It is, however, by many persons considered a very charming place; but after surveying both the house and grounds, we could only deem the former a commodious, but not a splendid building, and the latter pretty enough, but by no means surpassing what is to be seen round hundreds of gentlemens' seats in various parts of Britain.

Crossing the Spey, a deep and rapid river, issuing from the wilds of Inverness-shire, and uniting with the sea a little way from Fochabers, we proceeded towards Elgin, the capital of Moray-

shire, an ancient burgh, named prior to the year 1226, *Helgyn*, in honour of its founder *Helgy*, a Norwegian chief, who conquered several of the northern counties, and built this city, nearly nine hundred years ago.

Whatever it may formerly have been, Elgin is now of small importance, and the buildings, excepting only the ruins of the cathedral, appear never to have been any wise beyond the ordinary dwellings in all other old towns, where neither trade nor manufactures give an air of prosperity and chearfulness. The church and town-house are both clumsy aukward structures, and far from being ornamental to the place. The river Lossie passes near the town, and falls into the sea a few miles from it; near to its mouth is a thriving little village, called Lossiemouth, where there a rea few vessels employed in the fisheries and coasting-trade. A provost, four bailiffs, &c. regulate the police of Elgin, and the burgh unites with Nairn and others in sending one member to Parliament. In appearance Elgin is venerable, but it is also dull and unattractive; no bustle in its streets, no manufactures to enliven its inhabitants. All is sombrous, inactive, and chearless, as any place I ever yet beheld. Its cathedral, however, though now fast mouldering beneath the power of time, is fully deserving of all that has been said of it, and may with perfect justice be accounted one of the noblest specimens of antique workmanship the kingdom can boast of. About the beginning of the thirteenth century, this superb edifice was founded by Andrew de Murriff, then bishop of the diocese, and erected with prodigious cost and trouble; but in 1390, Alexander, son of Robert II. a bold and daring mortal, commonly denominated the "Wolf of Badenoch," having some difference with the bishop, set fire to both the city and cathedral, and reduced the greater part of them to ashes. On rebuilding the cathedral, it was considerably enlarged and ornamented; but the scarcity of money retarded the work for some time, and it was not completed for several years afterwards, when the chapter entered into an engagement that each succeeding bishop should be obliged to contribute a certain portion of his revenue towards finishing this great undertaking, an engagement most strictly enforced, and by which the whole was completed in a most magnificent and splendid manner. Until 1560 it remained entire, and for ages might have retained its grandeur and beauty undiminished, had not fanaticism, with her destroying hand, seized on this noble pile, and stripped it of its roof, since which time it has gradually verged towards a state of ruin, and much of its splendour is now for ever lost by the fall of part of its walls, and the decaying state of the remainder. It was built of freestone, in the form of a cross, with a large tower in the middle, and two at each end

Between those, on the western extremity, was the principal entrance, ornamented with some admirable sculpture, and a variety of embellishments, in a rich yet truly elegant taste. A double row of windows lighted the aisles; in the western gable was a window twenty-seven feet in height; and in the eastern another over the lesser ones, of a circular form, nearly twenty-two feet in diameter, enriched with several beautiful devices. The chapter-house has been uncommonly superb, its form an octagon, with a vaulted roof, supported by a single pillar, nine feet in circumference, from which spread ribs, along the roof, to each corner. In seven of the sides were windows, and in the eighth a door communicating with the choir. In the north wall were stalls for the bishop and dignitaries; that for the former being raised a little higher than the others. A large space of ground, surrounded by a stone wall, enclosed what is still called the College, which contained, besides the cathedral and burying-ground, houses and gardens for the canons, &c. Without the boundaries of this enclosure was a small Burgh, dependent on the bishop, which, with the college, was plundered and partly burned down, in 1402, by a son of Macdonald of the Isles; who, in consequence of his transgression, was excommunicated, but afterwards obtained a pardon upon presenting a sum of money for the purpose of erecting a cross, and procuring a set of bells for the church. To convey a just idea of the beauty, even of the ruins of this once noble edifice, is impossible; and a far abler pen than mine must be employed to do justice to the grandeur of the decorations, the carvings, devices and embellishments, still to be seen around the windows and principal place of entrance; but to observe its present mouldering state, and consider what once it was, must naturally produce, in every thinking mind, reflections on the mutability of all things in this ever-varying scene of worldly greatness, and on the utter impossibility of resisting the attacks of time, who, in spite of all the boasted powers of man, levels with the dust the proudest monuments of human ingenuity, and the most splendid works of art; for

> "E'en so fares it with the things of earth,
> Which seem most constant; there will come the cloud,
> That shall enfold them up, and leave their place
> A seat for emptiness."

The revenues of the bishop were at first but moderate, but grants of lands and money being added to them, by Alexander II. and David II. as well as many of the nobility, they became considerable; though, as the period of the Reformation approached, the clergy, being anxious to secure some provision for themselves, disposed of a great part of these lands; it is impossible to say

what really was the amount of their livings, or the income of the bishops.

Beside the ruins of this stately pile are many fragments of monuments, erected to the memory of priests and nobles, long since departed to "that bourn, from whence no traveller returns." And in contemplating those fallen momentoes of now-forgotten worth and talents, we passed a considerable portion of the evenings of our stay at Elgin, with minds impressed with melancholy awe and sober reflection, retracing past events, and progressively marking the changes which have taken place in the manners, customs, and opinions of mankind, since those whose dust now mingles with their kindred earth, strutted their hour upon the stage of life, insensibly returning back from

> "Things that have been, to the things that are,"

and, in the comparison of the world and its motley mixture of inhabitants, found neither, though represented to be in a wretched state of ruin and depravity, much worse than they were some centuries ago, when vice and immorality, barbarity and perfidy, were practised with no less injury to innocence and virtue, and with a degree of rancour and cruelty which, thanks to our excellent laws, even the most hardened of the worthless seldom dare venture on attempting. The world, therefore, we may still consider but as a great dance,

> ——————————In which, we find,
> The good and bad have various turns assigned;
> But when they've ended the great masquerade,
> One goes to glory, t'other to a shade.

In Elgin there was a convent of Grey-Friars, the walls of whose church are yet entire; and the remains of the convent are converted into a dwelling-house, but not an handsome one. In the neighbourhood there are also many vestiges of religious houses; the most observing of notice of which are the ruins of the Abbey of Pluscardine, a few miles from Elgin. Its situation has been most happily selected, in a spot at once retired, romantic, picturesque, and beautiful; in a charming valley, surrounded by woody heights, and an uncommon variety of rural as well as romantic objects, sweetly uniting their beauties to render it one of the most delightful spots the holy brotherhood could have pitched upon; and to give them their due, they rarely evinced a want of taste, or any visible neglect of convenience, in their choice of places on which to fix their abodes.

In the year 1230, this priory was founded by Alexander II. in honour of Saint Andrew, and filled with Cistercian monks, free

from episcopal jurisdiction, and enjoying many privileges and advantages, which they, however, knew not how to use in moderation, and their conduct at length became so licentious and immoral, that they were expelled from this, their little Eden, with opprobrium and disgrace; a society of Black Monks, as they were called, being put in their stead, and the priory placed under the command of the clergy at Dumfarmline.

Like the cathedral at Elgin, the Abbey of Plascardine was built of freestone, and appears to have been meant to represent a cross: but the original design was never completed, and the plans were altered, according to different tastes. The chapter-house has been remarkably elegant, and its vaulted roof supported by a beautiful clustered pillar. It has four windows, and is above thirty feet square. Contiguous to the above is a vaulted lobby and cloisters, and beyond these the kitchen, forty-five feet long, and nearly thirty in width; and on the west of the chapter-house was a cloistered court, of large dimensions, where the monks were used to take the air in wet weather. The church was also of considerable magnitude, and the whole of the edifice appears to have been both handsome and commodious; yet with all its conveniencies and beauty, we must not fail to remark, how far remote the inhabitants at one time were from the abode of virtue and contentment; and though shut out from the temptations of the world, secluded from the contagion of vice and profligacy, they rendered it the seat of luxury and licentiousness, of wickedness and immorality. Alas, poor human nature, even in the most sequestered corners of the globe, thy children are not exempt from frailties, nor secure from the intrusions of vice! The garden, which was large, was stocked with fruit trees of the best kinds; and till within these few years a fig tree, of great age and size, continued to blossom annually in it. A stream of water was conducted within the precints of the priory, which served for domestic uses, and drove a mill, for grinding the corn of the inhabitants, who even in those days had a large qnantity of wheat and other sorts of grain paid to them. The whole building, garden, &c. was enclosed by a stone wall, nearly fifteen feet in height, and formed an area of more than two acres. The lands annexed to it were sold in 1595 to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, since when they have passed through several hands, and are now the property of the Earl of Fife, who possesses extensive estates in the county of Moray.

In Elgin was born an author of the name of Florence Wilson, but better known in the literary world by that of *Florentinus Volusinus*. He flourished in the sixteenth century; was patronized by Cardinal Wolsey, appointed tutor to one of his nephews, and sent with him to France, a short time previous to the downfall of that

prelate's power. Becoming known to some of the professors in the university at Paris, he was chosen by them to teach the Greek and Latin languages. But his chief patron, the Archbishop Bellair, being disgraced, and obliged to quit that city, his prospects of preferment vanished, though the feelings of a grateful heart continued in such force as to induce him to follow the fallen fortunes of his friend to Rome; but a severe and dangerous fit of illness attacking him at Avignon, he was detained a considerable length of time, and left in the most indifferent circumstances, a stranger in a foreign land, and with a heart rent by disappointment, and a sense of his unworthy treatment from the friend for whose sake he had left a decent, and not altogether unprofitable situation, to attend upon him in his misfortunes. His good genius, however, did not totally desert him in the hour of distress, the celebrated *Subalet*, then bishop of Carpentras, hearing of his melancholy situation, sent for him, and, being pleased with his manners and literary abilities, appointed him professor of languages, with a suitable yearly salary. Thus once more settled in a state of ease and tranquillity, he turned his thoughts towards the completion of a work he had before purposed to offer to the world, and accordingly, while at Carpentras, he wrote and published his much admired treatise, "De Animæ Tranquillitate," and several other works: but the desire of revisiting his native country, that ardent wish so strongly implanted in the breasts of many men who have quitted their native land to pursue the road to fortune, impelled him to leave Carpentras, and proceed upon his way to Scotland, when once more falling sick in France, upon his journey, his fondly-cherished hopes and his existence were terminated together in 1527; and such, oh vain and short-sighted mortals, is oftentimes the end of all our most sanguine wishes and high-raised expectations of future joy or greatness, such the termination of many of our visionary schemes of happiness; and thus we frequently have reason to perceive that even

> "The ample proposition that hope makes
> In all designs begun on earth below,
> Fails in the promised largeness."

CHAP. VI.

ROAD TO FORRES.—PILLAR NEAR THAT PLACE.—FORRES.—DARNWAY CASTLE.—ITS GREAT HALL.—EARL RANDOLPH'S CHAIR.—VIEW FROM THE CASTLE.—MORAYSHIRE.—NAIRN.—FORT GEORGE.—CULLODEN MOOR.—PRINCE CHARLES; HIS SUFFERINGS, AND FIDELITY OF SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS.—INVERNESS.—ITS BUILDINGS, MANUFACTURES, COLLEGE, POLICE, &c.—INVERNESS-SHIRE.—LOCH-NESS.—ANCIENT CASTLES, &c.—PICTURESQUE SCENERY.—FALL OF FOYERS, &c. &c.

ON quitting Elgin, we pursued our way towards the pleasant little town of Forres, and during the whole of the ride had the satisfaction of beholding, as far as the eye could reach on either side, a fertile and well-cultivated tract of country, interspersed with gentlemens' seats and thriving plantations, and on the whole, presenting a more than ordinarily agreeable and interesting landscape.

About three miles north-east of the town, and close by the side of the road, we observed a pillar of considerable magnitude placed on that spot, as some pretend to assert, by the Danes, in commemmoration of their successes over Malcolm II. and by others attributed to different causes, all probably remote from the truth, though there is undoubtedly every reason to imagine, it alludes to a battle, a defeat, and a treaty of peace, betwixt the contending parties. In height it is upwards of twenty feet, and in breadth about four, divided into several parts, in each of which are sculptured ornaments, of various forms and sizes. On the upper one are different devices, impossible to be explained, and in the next compartment are the figures of several men on horseback, as if marching in perfect order. Beneath these is a line of warriors, with uplifted weapons, ready apparently to level their opponents with the ground; but the third division is not so clearly delineated, I shall therefore pass on to the fourth, which represents the figures of several men, in the act of guarding a canopy, under which are many human heads, and a heap of bodies, piled upon the left. Next comes a troop of horse, followed by a train of infantry, with bows and arrows, and other warlike instruments. Then a number of horses, whose riders appear to be beheaded, and thrown in a heap; and the last division, like the

third, is too confused to admit of any explanation; but we may naturally conclude it is intended to represent the termination of the battle, as on the opposite side of the pillar, there are, under a cross, two figures in a bending attitude, and on the edges several others, whose hands are joined, as if in token of returning amity and peace.

Of Forres, though a neat clean-looking little town, much cannot be said, excepting that it is a burgh, situated in a rich and finely-diversified plain, near to the river Findhorn, consisting of one street, of considerable length, and a few lesser ones, containing some rather handsome houses, a church, a town-house, and a jail, all tolerably decent and in good repair. Having stopped to dine at Forres, we proceeded in the afternoon upon our way to Nairn, but quitted the common road in order to see the ancient castle of Tarnway, or Darnway, as it is sometimes called, a seat belonging to the Earl of Moray, founded by Randolph, regent of Scotland during the minority of David Bruce, and since enlarged by several successive owners. It is a high and rather gloomy-looking structure, erected on a mount, upon the confines of a wood, commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country, but not displaying in its exterior, or indeed in its internal decorations, much elegance or grandeur. It consisted originally of little more than one great hall, being intended by the founder for a hunting seat, and in those days many apartments, notwithstanding the assemblage was oftentimes very numerous, were not accounted necessary, it being the general practice, upon occasions of great meetings, for the nobility and guests of lesser note to repose on beds of rushes, or long grass, spread over the floor; a sort of resting-place and kind of couch our delicate sprigs of quality of modern times would shudder even to think of. The hall, which yet is nearly in its original state, is said to be large enough to contain a thousand men in arms; be that as it may, it certainly appears to be about ninety feet in length, and nearly thirty in breadth, with a gallery at one end, where the minstrels used to perform their parts, and charm their hearers with a repetition of their silver sounds, and the recital of the deeds of heroes long since numbered with the dead. Of its ancient furniture little now remains, excepting Earl Randolph's chair, a huge unwieldy lump of oak, carved in a variety of devices, and weighing upwards of sixty pounds, and also a table of the same material, ornamented in a similar manner, and of a ponderous weight. Of the apartments which have been added within these last two centuries, little can be said, as they are neither handsome, spacious, nor elegantly furnished; a few good paintings are in some of them, and in particular, one of the "Bonny Earl of Moray," a youth of singular beauty and accomplishments, who was murdered, as is

generally supposed, at the instigation of James VI. who suspected his royal consort of beholding him with too great partiality.

The view from the roof of the castle is extremely fine, and worth the trouble and fatigue of climbing up a long, narrow, half decayed staircase, which winds up the inside of one of the towers.

The county of Moray is extensive, and in many parts as rich and beautifully diversified as it is possible to conceive, enjoying a mild and wholesome air, and producing all sorts of game and fruit, in a great abundance, and at as early a season as any district in Scotland. Of gentlemens' seats there are many in the county, several of which are finely situated and prettily ornamented. Towards the coast the ground is flat, but in the interior it is finely broken into hills and dales, and some rivers of considerable size pass through it. Wood is in plenty, and more hedges are to be seen in Moray than in any other of the northern counties; in short, it is, with respect to soil, climate, and beauty, the best and most agreeable district we had occasion to visit in the North of Scotland.

Having loitered rather longer than we ought to have done at Darnway Castle, it was later than our usual hour of travelling when we arrived at Nairn; but from what the waning day enabled us to observe, and from all we could learn respecting the surrounding country, we did not experience any great loss by not discerning clearly the prospects upon any side of us—the vicinity of Nairn, as well as the town itself, being little deserving of notice; for though a royal burgh, and a place of great antiquity, it has nothing to recommend it in any manner whatsoever to a traveller's observation. From Nairn to Fort-George, the face of the country is as bleak, chearless, and dreary, as it is possible to be conceived; nor is the situation of the fort by any means agreeable, though probably an advantageous one enough for the purpose it was erected, and which, though now useless, was, no doubt, necessary at the time it was built, which was shortly after the rebellion in 1745-6, when the Highlanders, at present as loyal a set of people as any in the empire, were inclined to be refractory, and, had they been encouraged, might again have broken out into open violence. Arriving at the fort, just at the time when the garrison were performing their morning exercise on the parade, the gaiety of their dress and appearance, together with the chearfulness and regularity so visibly displayed on every object, both living and inanimate, around us, formed a most striking contrast to the dismal dreary moors, where scarce the face of mortal was to be seen, over which we had so lately passed. Nor were the comforts of a clean room, and a good breakfast at the inn, ungratefully received; for having fared indifferently at Nairn, and travelled a long and

wearisome stage, at an early hour in the morning we were disposed to partake of the latter with an excellent appetite, and to account the former also no small addition to our comforts. Having procured, by means of a military acquaintance in the fort, an intelligent guide to conduct us over the whole, we sallied forth soon after the conclusion of our meal, and had a very agreeable walk round the ramparts, though the day was uncommonly cold and sharp for the time of the year. The extent of the whole does not appear to be above half a mile in circumference. It has four bastions mounted with cannon, and a regular garrison constantly kept in it, with barracks fit for the reception of three thousand men; an excellent house for the governor, a chapel, magazines, &c. and several other houses of genteel appearance. Fort George is situated upon the side of a large bay, or arm of the sea, usually known by the name of the Moray-Firth. In winter it must be dreadfully cold; and in point of beauty, or any external charm whatever, it is totally deficient, being placed upon a spot where, for many miles around, all is uncomfortable, cheerless, and disagreeable. At the period when this fortress was intended to be built, it was proposed to have it erected on the site of a citadel which Cromwell had raised close to the town of Inverness; but to this the magistrates had many objections, the principal of which was, the inconvenience that might arise from a constant intercourse between the citizens and the military, whose morals seldom are such as to improve those of the persons they mix with: and accordingly they made so exorbitant a demand for the ground above-mentioned, that the Duke of Cumberland, incensed at what he termed their avarice, ordered it to be built upon the spot it now occupies, which was purchased at a much lower rate for that purpose.

Pursuing our way to Inverness, we passed over a small part of Culloden-Moor, where in 1746 the decisive victory was gained by the Duke of Cumberland's army over the forces of the Pretender; a victory which put a final period to the hopes of the rebellious party, and for ever closed the pretensions of the unfortunate descendant of a most unhappy race. A feeling mind must be deeply interested in contemplating his subsequent sufferings after the eventful day when all his hopes of success were totally destroyed: while, at the same time, it is impossible not to experience the liveliest sentiments of wonder, admiration, and respect, to those persons who were privy to his distressful situation, acquainted with his person, and certain of his retreats; yet firmly resisted the power of gold, so liberally promised to whoever would secure and deliver him up to captivity, and faithfully aided him in all his difficulties. Our surprise increases, when we recollect that these individuals were not less than fifty in number, chiefly

of the lowest class, thoroughly acquainted with his various disguises, yet readily affording him shelter, assistance, or food, according as his necessities demanded, and their own situations enabled them to bestow. Such wonderful fidelity, such disinterestedness, can scarcely be paralleled in the history of either ancient or modern times, in any country: yet that it actually did occur in Scotland, is past all doubt; and it forms a trait in the character of the Highlanders which every unprejudiced person must applaud, and view with the highest admiration, whatever may be his political opinions, or attachment to the present worthy family of Brunswick. The unfortunate prince, reduced to poverty, exposed to hunger and fatigue, and compelled to lurk in the meanest disguises amidst the wildest, the most savage scenes in nature, bore his wretched lot without abandoning himself to fury at his disappointment, or losing sight of hope and recollection to enable him to devise the means of escape from his pursuers, for nearly five months: at the end of which he got on board a privateer belonging to St. Maloes; and, after encountering the danger of passing through an English squadron during a fog, reached Roseau in Brittany, almost entirely exhausted by fatigue, long suffering, and distress of mind, to pass the remainder of his days in retirement from the busy scenes of life, unheeded and at length almost forgotten, even by his once most strenuous supporters.

From Culloden to Inverness, the face of the country becomes more varied and agreeable, and many of the views near the town are extremely rural and pleasing.—Inverness, the capital of the county of that name, is of considerable magnitude; and contains about ten thousand inhabitants, two thousand of whom, of different ages, are continually employed in the manufactories of coarse linens, sacking, threads, bleaching-grounds, &c. &c. all which are carried on with great spirit, and are in a very flourishing state. The jail and town-house, situated in the middle of the town, are newly-erected and more than ordinarily handsome; built entirely of a beautiful-coloured stone, and ornamented with rows of pillars in front, with cornices and various other decorations. The markets are well supplied with provisions of all sorts, and under excellent regulations; which are strictly attended to by the magistrates, who consist of a provost, four bailiffs, a treasurer, &c. The churches are also handsome, and in one of them divine worship is performed in the Gaelic or Erse language. An academy, or college, was lately erected by subscription; in which above two hundred young gentlemen are completely educated in every branch of literature, by separate masters, who have each a yearly salary, and are under the direction of the magistrates, the principal subscribers, and some gentlemen of distinction in the county. To these classes one has been added by desire

of the London Highland Society, for teaching the Gaelic language. There are likewise several excellent schools in the town for dancing, music, &c. also under the direction of the magistrates, and extremely well conducted. The river Ness, which issues from the Loch, and flows past the town, produces abundance of excellent salmon, much of which is cured and exported by the company who rent the fishery. The most delicious trout and sea-fish of all kinds are in plenty also, and at low prices. At a short distance from the town, upon an eminence, are the remains of the castle where Duncan was murdered by the villainous Macbeth; but they are hardly worth viewing. To a stranger, expecting only the calm serenity of a country-town, in a remote corner of the island, Inverness affords no little surprize; and it is not till he is informed that it is the principal town in the northern part of the kingdom, the abode of many respectable families, and the resort of all ranks of persons for a great extent around, that his wonder ceases at beholding the streets crowded with passengers and elegant equipages, and hearing that it is frequently the scene of great gaiety and bustle, and, though many hundred miles removed from the grand emporium of taste and fashion, London, it is by no means a disagreeable place occasionally to visit, or constantly reside in. The English language, it is generally allowed, is spoken at Inverness with much greater propriety, and certainly in far more pleasing accents, than at either Aberdeen or Edinburgh; where, though totally different from each other, both are unpleasing to the ear; and it is difficult to determine whether the drawling tones of the natives of the capital, or the sharp accent of the Aberdonians, are the more discordant.

Invernessshire is a large tract of country, containing vast ranges of unpeopled and uncultivated mountains, fit only for pasturing small sheep and cattle: some of them are indeed entirely covered with wood, and present a variety of grand and highly picturesque scenery; the vallies, however, produce good crops of oats and barley, the only kinds of grain raised in that part of the country. Many of the mountains are of an immense height: Ben-Nevis, in particular, rises 4300 feet above the level of the sea; and Cairngorum, so famous for its beautiful crystals and pebbles, is likewise very high. A number of lochs are also to be seen in Invernessshire: nay, it is almost intersected by sheets of water; which, in the course of a few years, if the present plan of uniting them is fully completed by means of canals, will open an easy communication between the seas on each side of the island, and prove highly beneficial to the land-owners in the Highlands, and to the country in general.

Respecting the name of this county, I shall briefly mention

its derivation, as I heard it, but without vouching it as a fact. I was informed that, in the ancient language of the country, the word *Ess* signifies a *Cataract,* and *Loch-na-Ess* the Loch of the Cataract; by which latter, I presume, is meant the celebrated Fall of Foyers. *Inver* is the junction of waters, consequently Inverness is the disemboguing of the Loch by the river into the sea.

In Invernessshire there are the remains of many castles, forts, and other vestiges of antiquity; and many battles have been fought within its boundaries, occasioned partly by the feuds among the powerful rival clans: but these disturbances have long ceased; and industry, and the most perfect harmony, now prevail among all ranks and conditions of its inhabitants—a change at which every friend of human nature must rejoice. Loch-Ness, which I have hitherto scarcely mentioned, is a sheet of water two-and-twenty miles in length, and in some parts nearly three miles in breadth: in general it is deep, and marked by two peculiarities, viz. the laxative quality of the water to persons, or animals, unaccustomed to drink of it, and likewise its never freezing even in the severest seasons; yet when water is drawn from either the Loch or river, it freezes directly, a circumstance which would naturally lead me to suppose there were springs heated by volcanic fire beneath its bed; but if so, no proof of any such have ever yet appeared. In intense frosts, both the Loch and river are covered with a thick smoke, and linen stiffened by the keenness of the air instantly thaws on being dipped in either; yet no current has ever been observed in the former, nor does the latter, though not more than ten feet deep, ever overflow its banks. A singular phenomenon, however, occurred upon the 1st November, 1755, during the precise time of the fatal earthquake at Lisbon, when the waters in the Loch were uncommonly agitated. It then ebbed and flowed with uncommon impetuosity; and rose two hundred yards against the current of the river Erich, continuing to be greatly disturbed for upwards of an hour, and dashing itself several feet beyond the banks, overflowing them to the distance of more than ten yards. A boat, moored near the place known by the name of the General's Hut, was three times driven on shore, and carried back again, though loaded with wood; which being at length thrown on the bank, she filled with water, and sunk: yet in the midst of all this terrible commotion in the Loch, no change or agitation of any kind was experienced on land, a circumstance most unaccountable and wonderful. That Loch-Ness is one of the noblest sheets of water in the kingdom, is a truth I do not seek to deny, nor am I at all inclined to depreciate its beauties: though in my eyes it presents not that variety and grandeur in its scenery which

so many travellers have represented it to possess; for though the mountains upon both sides are lofty, steep, and, on the western, thickly wooded, they afford little diversity or grandeur in their appearance; and the uniform sameness of the borders of the Loch is unbroken by any pleasing objects, except a few little streams which trickle down their rugged channels, and are but rarely seen, even in rainy weather, when mountain torrents are beheld to the greatest advantage. From Inverness to the Fall of Foyers, a distance of about eighteen miles, chiefly along the side of the Loch, scarce a single human habitation, or a trace of man, except the road we travelled upon, was visible for many miles of the way; and, on the opposite side, but little more is to be discerned, to interrupt the general dullness of the scene: the whole, however, is highly deserving of a visit; and no true admirer of the grand, the wild, the beautiful works of nature, would hesitate to perform a journey of far greater difficulty and much distance, in order to be gratified with a view of the noblest cataract in Britain, the celebrated Fall of Foyers. Most luckily for us, the day we had appointed for our excursion to the Fall of Foyers, proved to be one of the most charming in the whole season; and accordingly, at a very early hour in the morning, we set out upon our jaunt, and proceeded by the road cut by the military under the command of General Wade, as a communication between the chain of forts in the highland district. Soon reaching the lower end of the Loch, we pursued our way along the side of the high and rugged mountains on our left, the road at some times passing under huge fragments of rock, which seemed just ready to drop upon our heads; at others, mounting precipices hanging over the Loch, intermixed with woods, and then presenting very wild and picturesque appearances. One lofty promontory, called the Black Rock, is really dangerous to pass over, and most tremendously awful; the road being both steep and narrow, and cut along the edge of a frightful precipice, at least a hundred and fifty feet above the Loch: yet, steep and dangerous as it is, we ascended it in the carriage; and were much gratified, upon gaining its majestic summit, with the beauty and romantic loveliness of the view before us; which, on winding round the corner of the rock to descend into the valley below, we pronounced to be the most sublimely grand and picturesque of any to be seen upon the borders of the Loch, from Inverness to the Fall of Foyers, nor had we afterwards any cause to change our opinion. Upon our right, far stretching between its lofty banks, the Loch appeared, reflecting in its clear unruffled surface the hues of various-coloured trees, and the shade of a sky of the purest azure. Agitated by the lightest breeze, on the opposite shore, at the entrance of a nar-

row fertile valley, stood the remains of Castle Urquhart, in former times the residence of the powerful family of Comyns: the ruins were backed by a range of high mountains, bare, bleak, and awfully grand; while on our left arose a chain of heights, covered to their summits with wood, which spreading downwards to the water's edge, was intermixed with large grey rocks, and shaggy precipices, and gave a finish to the scene, most striking and magnificent. Beneath us lay a deep and narrow glen, through which a rapid torrent poured, amidst innumerable crags, foaming and dashing over every obstruction it appeared to meet with till it reached the Loch; when, like the turbulent and noisy disturbers of society on earth, it at last found a place where all its clamours were for ever hushed into silence and repose. A bridge of one arch facilitates the passage across the stream: and, amidst a profusion of tall luxuriant birch, and other trees, the road continues to wind along the side of the mountain; while the Loch, unbroken by a single billow, flows in a clear transparent sheet, upon the right, reflecting every object on its placid bosom, and varying its appearance with every passing shade. At a small inn, still known by the name of the General's Hut, we procured some refreshment; and leaving our horses to rest, we proceeded on foot towards the Fall of Foyers, amidst thick woods, along the edge of the mountain, sometimes in view of the Loch beneath, at others shut out as it were from all the surrounding world by the luxuriant foliage of the trees, through which at length we perceived a thick and heavy vapour, rising to a prodigious height, at a little distance before us. We now soon distinguished the loud rushing of the water; which, as we approached towards the Fall, became more deafening, and resounded amidst the hollows of the mountains with incredible and stunning noise. We were conducted by our guides, whom we had procured at a cottage not far distant from the road, down a steep bank: which, though rather dangerous for persons unaccustomed to such a path, conveyed us to a spot from whence the noble foaming cataract at once burst on our sight; standing upon a grassy hillock, projecting over the enormous chasm, we beheld the roaring torrent, in all its grandeur, dashing with ceaseless noise and impetuosity over a precipice upwards of four hundred feet in height, and tumbling into a dark and horrible abyss, from whence it shortly after rises, and regains its once smooth, placid course; and winding sweetly for a little distance, through the umbrageous shade, unites its waters with those of the Loch, near to the solitary but most romantically situated residence of a gentleman of the name of Frazer; a spot which, during the summer season, must be indescribably delightful, but, in the dreary winter,

——————When the rain rains cauld,
And frost and snaw's on ilka hill,

must be a dismal habitation indeed.

Lost in admiration at the sublime and awful appearance of the scene before our eyes, we remained a considerable time upon the spot already mentioned, ere we ventured to proceed still lower down the slippery steep; the lowest part of which we at length however gained, and for several minutes felt our senses almost bewildered by the roaring of the torrent, and the violent dashing of the water, which, losing even the appearance of that element, mounts high in air, like mounds of snow, chasing each other down the precipice, then spreading as they fall, into the depths below, with a tremendous noise reaching all around. Ascending again, as well as we could scramble up the dangerous path; clinging to the trees on either side, with dread and apprehension of being precipitated into the abyss, while the foot is searching for a safe hold to rest itself upon; we at last arrived in safety at the top of the bank: and, after a moment's rest, pursued our way to the bridge, some hundred yards above the Fort. Here the view, though different from the former, is highly picturesque; and, were it first visited, would be greatly admired: but the stupid guides usually conduct strangers to the greater Fall, before they even mention the other, which is really very beautiful when viewed from the single-arched bridge across the stream; for there commences the turmoil and noise of the water; and from that spot it is seen dashing over huge rocks, and throwing up prodigious clouds of smoke, till, entering a narrower channel, it rushes with rapidity along, to the edge of the precipice, thence tumbles into the abyss beneath, and finally terminates its course at the Loch, as already described. Near this bridge are several excavations in the rocks, where some of the followers of the unfortunate Prince Charles often sought for shelter from the pursuit of their enemies, and the severity of the weather: into some of them we entered, and easily perceived they were the work of nature, but not particularly curious, or deserving of closer attention.

Beyond the Fall of Foyers, an enormous mountain rises perpendicularly from the Loch, to the height of 3060 feet above the level of the water, forming a most sublime and impressive object when viewed from the neighbourhood of the cataract; it is called Mealfourvounic: other high rocky and precipitous mountains almost encompass this noble fall; in the contemplation of which, however, all other objects are forgotten, or but slightly observed.

Returning again to the bank beside the Fall, we took another and a last view of the impetuous torrent; and, more accustomed

to the din and foaming of the water, we were enabled to admire its beauties with even greater satisfaction than before. At this moment the enlivening rays of the sun, which had been for some time obscured by a heavy passing cloud, shone forth in all their brightness; and produced the finest effect imaginable upon the rolling sheet of water, and the overhanging branches of the trees, bespangled with the dews arising from the torrent. Reluctantly we at last took leave of this sublime and awful work of nature; and as the day was by that time pretty far advanced, we made the best of our way again to Inverness, much gratified with our excursion, for which we had been extremely fortunate in the weather, not a drop of rain having fallen here that day—a circumstance by no means usual in mountainous districts, in which much wet falls during the summer and autumnal months. In some of the vallies in that part of the Highlands, the closeness of the woods, and the reflection of the sun upon the rocks, occasion the crops of grain to ripen at a very early season; yet such is the frequency and violence of the rain, that it seldom happens that they are divided in the open fields: buildings are therefore erected, into which the corn is carried as soon as it is cut, and hung sheaf by sheaf upon wooden pegs, till completely dry, when it is removed to make room for the produce of another field. On small farms, these buildings are sometimes raised of angular stones, to admit the air to pass through, while the rain trickles down the outside; but those constructed of wood, wattled between the supporters, are the most common, and accounted the best.

Having little more to add of Inverness or its vicinity, I shall close this chapter by observing, that in point of hospitality and courteousness to strangers, that place has long been celebrated: and indeed it is but justice to add, that in all parts of the Highlands of Scotland the natives are ever ready to receive and entertain, to the utmost of their power, all strangers of whatsoever rank they chance to be; and that too without particular recommendations to their notice, or the smallest expectation of future benefit to themselves. The talent for poetical composition, for which the Highlanders have long been famous, is not yet totally extinct; and even in these days, no particular occurrence happens in their families or neighbourhood, that is not celebrated in Gaelic verse, and usually sung to airs at once sweet, plaintive, wild, and harmonious. Indeed the original music of the Highlands is, in general, peculiarly plaintive; and several of the airs played on the bagpipes, on mournful or solemn occasions, are pleasing and affecting in the highest degree: like the Swiss, they have one which never fails to affect a true-born Highlander, in the same manner in which the *Ranz des Vaches* is said to operate on a

native of the once peaceful and happy vales and mountains of poor desolated Switzerland.

Much as we wished to have penetrated further into the Northern Highlands, it was not consistent with our plan to remain long in that part of the kingdom. We therefore, with unfeigned regret, took leave of Invernessshire, and the friends who had kindly entertained us during our short stay in their neighbourhood, and pursued our way once more to the flourishing city of Aberdeen: but as we made some little deviation in our route thither, and omitted to mention some particulars which I *gleaned* upon my way northwards, I shall conclude this chapter; and, in the next, present my readers with the few additional *stalks* which I have gathered from the *sheaf*.

CHAP. VII.

CULLODEN HOUSE. — CAWDOR CASTLE. — MARQUIS OF MONTROSE'S ARMY.—OUTRAGES COMMITTED IN 1645.—NAIRN. — FORRES. — ELGIN AGAIN VISITED. — GARMONTH. — THE RIVER SPEY. — MODE OF BRINGING WOOD DOWN ITS STREAM.—MEMORABLE EVENTS.—RETURN TO BANFF.—ROCKS NEAR THAT PLACE.—RETURN TO TURRIFF, BY THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE DOVERAN.—THENCE TO ABERDEEN, BY OLDMELDRUM.—TO STONEHAVEN.—INVERBERVIE.—MONTROSE.—ARBROATH, OR ABERBROTHWICK.—ITS HARBOUR, MANUFACTURES.—THE ABBEY.—DARING ATTEMPT, IN 1781, BY THE MASTER OF A PRIVATEER.—DUNDEE.—ITS BUILDINGS,—MANUFACTURES,—HARBOURS, &c.—BOETIUS, HIS BIRTH-PLACE.—CARSE OF GOWRIE.—BEAUTIFUL SCENERY.—RETURN TO PERTH, &c. &c.

AT the distance of a few miles from Inverness, we passed the elegant mansion of Mr. Forbes, of Culloden; surrounded by extensive plantations, and many improvements, which reflect great credit on the taste and active spirit of the owner. Thence, pursuing the common road to Nairn, we passed Cawdor-castle, the ancient residence of the thanes of Cawdor; but what now remains of the building exhibits few traces of former grandeur, and is almost eclipsed by the large and more modern mansion substituted in its stead. In 1645, Cawdor-castle was materially injured by the army under the command of the marquis of Montrose; who, in endeavouring to establish prelacy in Scotland, committed many outrages, particularly in the province of

Moray. The most substantial of the inhabitants retired, with their families, to the Castle of Spynie; then a tolerably strong fortress, on the borders of the Loch of that name, a few miles from Elgin. At that time General Urry commanded the forces of the people, assembled in Inverness; and Montrose was hastening onwards with a large body of horse and foot: but being met near a village called Stuldeam, on the borders of the county of Nairn, he was compelled to hazard a battle against a considerably superior force, though the advantage of the ground was greatly in his favour. Concealing some of his troops behind the village, he gave the command of the right wing to Colonel Alexander M'Donald, whose situation was protected by banks of bushes, stones, &c. and there displayed the royal standard, in order to entice the enemy to waste their principal strength upon a spot that for a long time must resist their utmost efforts. To Lord Gordon he gave the charge of the cavalry; while he himself in person led on the left wing against the van of his opponents, who (as he had expected) attacked the right. Being privately informed M'Donald's men were falling into great confusion, and nearly put to flight by the well-directed fire of their antagonists, he strove to dissemble his chagrin beneath the mask of ardour, and redoubled courage; and loudly calling to the leader of the horse, "My Lord, M'Donald routs the enemy on the right: let him not carry off the glory of the day, but let us also give a vigorous charge," he darted forward at the head of his troops. The cavalry of Urry sustained a dreadful shock, were put to the rout, and in their confusion disordered the infantry, whose flank they left exposed; while M'Donald, who, in the ardour of the onset, had rashly ventured from his position, was re-conducted to it by Montrose; and the cavalry who had encountered him, perceiving him advancing after their companions, fled with precipitation. The infantry, however, maintained their ground, till almost the whole of them were slain, and gained a decisive victory; while, on the other side, scarcely a dozen of men were killed, and but very few even slightly wounded. Fired with success, and eager to revenge upon the family of Cawdor the murder of a young man of the name of Gordon, who had been put to death while sick in bed by some of the opposite party, Montrose permitted his troops to exercise a number of cruelties upon the luckless inhabitants of the district through which they passed on their way towards the south; destroying, burning, and pillaging, in the most ruthless manner, and in particular upon the estates belonging to the Cawdor family; to Elgin also he set fire, and rifled the dwellings of many creditable persons in that city. Such were the sufferings of our ancestors, on various occasions, and such the cruelties exercised against a people struggling merely for the

establishment of a simple form of worship: but, thanks to heaven! these fierce contentions and horrible scenes of slaughter are at an end in Britain; and never more, I trust, will its delightful plains be deluged by the blood of its inhabitants, shed by each others' hands.

Of Nairn I have already said just enough to convince my readers of its insignificance, and unpleasantness; I shall therefore only add, that on a second survey of the place, we were not inspired with more favourable sentiments respecting either its beauty, importance, or cleanliness. On the south side of the town once stood a royal fortress, of which the thanes of Cawdor were constables, till the termination of the last rebellion in Scotland. It had been built by William the Lion, in order to protect that part of the country from the incursions of the Ross and Caithness plunderers; who frequently poured in great numbers from their fastnesses, and committed various depredations on their neighbours, during the course of several years: its remains, however, are scarce deserving of notice.

Upon a second view, Forres still wore a cheerful, lively, and a pleasant appearance, and Elgin presented a dull and gloomy scene. From thence we proceeded on to Garmonth, or Garmoch: a little town, a short distance from the mouth of the Spey, where there are a tolerable harbour for small vessels, and extensive saw-mills erected for the purpose of cutting up the wood floated down the river from the forests in Strathspey; the firs from which are of considerable dimensions, and accounted of an excellent quality. Sometimes these planks are floated down in rafts, navigated by one or two men; who are seated in a sort of low chairs, and work their way along with a short oar, or paddle: at others, they are set adrift in the stream, to the number of many hundreds at a time; and conducted by men who walk on the banks, and push off the logs with poles, whenever they chance to be impeded in their progress.—The Spey is a deep and very rapid river, deriving its source from a spring in the mountains called Conganoch, in the upper part of Invernessshire, at the distance of a hundred miles from the ocean; into which it empties itself, as already stated, near the little town of Garmoch: a place which, though at present of no great importance, appears to be in a flourishing state, and likely to rise into greater consequence in the course of a few years. The tide flows up to Garmoch, and at its lowest ebb the water is nine feet on the bar.

Near the mouth of the Spey, several battles have been fought on various occasions: and it is mentioned in history, as the scene of action, so long since as the year 1078; when the inhabitants of Moray, Rossshire, and Caithness, having rebelled

against their sovereign, Malcolm III., they fixed on a spot not far from Speymouth, to oppose his passage across the river; but finding all their efforts to stop his progress of no avail, they sued for pardon, and obtained it through the mediation of their priests. In 1110, another army of rebellious clans again endeavoured to prevent the passage of Alexander I. before whom they had been retreating; but having a powerful force with him, he made his way across in spite of them; and pursuing his advantage with unabated vigour, they fell an easy prey to a detachment of more regularly disciplined troops, who put a number of them to death, and for some time crushed the unruly spirit which had prompted them to take up arms. But an insurrection still more formidable than either of these, broke out in 1160, and was quelled by the spirited exertions of Malcolm IV.: who gave the insurgents battle upon a moor near the mouth of Spey; and so completely subdued them, that many families of distinction in the neighbourhood were compelled to quit their ancient territories, and retire to distant parts of the kingdom, where they settled for life. At Speymouth Charles II. landed, in 1650, from Holland.

Once more returned to Banff, we spent part of a day in visiting some curious rocks not far from thence, which we had been informed were worthy of our observation, and in which we were not disappointed. In some parts, these enormous cliffs project into the sea, forming a variety of little bays and creeks; and in one of the largest there is a natural arch-way, beneath which a boat of tolerable size can easily pass through to the other side: upon the whole, they form a picturesque and very strange appearance.

Being desirous of varying our route as much as our time would admit, we did not, upon leaving Banff, re-cross the Doveran: but, after passing through a considerable part of Lord Fife's grounds (which his lordship politely permits strangers to traverse), we entered a road that leads along the northern banks of the river; and for several miles enjoyed the sight of a well-improved and diversified valley, adorned by gentlemen's seats, neat farm-houses, woods, corn-fields, and a variety of pleasing objects. We next reached a ford not far from Turriff, to which place we crossed; and stopping only to refresh our horses, took a last leave of the sweetly-winding Doveran, and all its truly-lovely scenery, to enter on a tract of "moorlands and mountains, bleak, barren, and wild," rendered doubly disagreeable and dreary by the badness of the weather, which we repeatedly found to change in the course of the day. We proceeded from Turriff to Old Méldrum, and thence to Aberdeen; where having passed another day, we proceeded forward by Stonehaven to Inver-

bervie, or Bervie (as it is usually called), nine miles from the former place: but, though erected into a roayl burgh, by David I. who was driven on shore there, it contains scarcely any thing meriting notice. The general appearance of the town presents but few marks either of opulence or cleanliness; though there are some tolerably extensive manufactories of sail-cloth, Osnaburgh, and coarse threads, established. From this place to Montrose the face of the country improves at every step: and as we drew near that town, we had occasion to remark the striking contrast between the habitations of the poorer class of inhabitants, and those of the same rank in the more northerly counties; and could not but repeat our regret, that in Aberdeen and Banff they are yet so far behind their neighbours in the neatness and good order of the farmers' and cottagers' dwellings. At three miles from Montrose, we crossed the North Esk river by a handsome bridge, near which the scenery is extremely pleasing: and proceeding along a finely cultivated plain, ornamented by several beautiful habitations, we reached the town; and, while dinner was preparing, took a short survey of the place. Situated in the county of Angus, near the mouth of the South Esk river, Montrose is a populous and tolerably well built town; carrying on a considerable trade with different English ports, and those of the Baltic, Norway, &c. The bridge erected a few years since across the South Esk, is a noble piece of architecture; and now renders the communication easy and agreeable, as the ferry there, in stormy weather, was frequently extremely dangerous. In consequence of the building of the above-mentioned bridge, the road from Perth to the north, by the coast, is now much more frequented than that by Cupar-in-Angus, Forfar, &c.: it is far superior, runs through an infinitely finer country, and has the advantage of more comfortable inns at all the stages; besides the convenience of the mail-coach from Edinburgh to the north. In Montrose there are several manufactories of sail-cloth, linens, threads, &c.; and the salmon and other fisheries in the rivers and on the coast, afford employment to a great number of persons, as well as add considerably to the wealth of the inhabitants. The harbour is large and nearly semi-circular, admitting vessels of tolerable burden. Upon each side of the river and for many miles round the town, the country is uncommonly rich and fertile; and the neighbourhood is not to be excelled in any part of the kingdom. Indeed, I have seldom seen, in any part of the country, such a number of charming seats and elegant villas as in the vicinity of Montrose. There are annual races here; which, as may be readily imagined in such a neighbourhood, are very fully attended. Of the public buildings few deserve much attention, and none of them a par-

ticular description: the town-house, the church, and episcopal chapel, are the handsomest. It is governed by a provost and other magistrates; and, in conjunction with Aberdeen, Arbroath, Bervie, and Brechin, sends one member to parliament. Fish of all kinds are cheap, and in great abundance; and the markets are well supplied with every kind of necessary article at reasonable prices.

From Montrose to Aberbrothwick, or Arbroath, the country is very pleasant; resembling greatly many parts of England, and exhibiting numberless proofs of skilful husbandry, and unremitting attention to the business of agriculture. Arbroath is situated at the mouth of the little river Brothwic, from which it derives its name: *Aber* being, in the ancient language of the country, a place at the mouth of a stream; as, for instance, *Aberdeen*, or, "the mouth of the Dee."

The harbour, formerly a very indifferent one, is now capable of containing a number of pretty large trading vessels; and, by means of piers which contract the extent of the water, it is upwards of fifteen feet deep at full tide. Linens, osnaburghs, and sail-cloth, are manufactured in the town, and employ several hundred persons. Some of the houses have a genteel appearance; and, upon the whole, the place is rather agreeable to the eye of a stranger than otherwise. The abbey, the principal object of a traveller's curiosity in Arbroath, is a beautiful ruin, and has at one time been a remarkably elegant, magnificent, and extensive pile of building. In the year 1178, it was founded by William the Lion, and dedicated to St. Thomas Becket. Its revenues were large; and the monks who inhabited it, were famous for their hospitality and kindness to strangers. They enjoyed many extraordinary privileges from the abbot of Kelso, and likewise from the English king John; who, being patron of the abbey, by charter granted it some unusual favours, and manifested a peculiar partiality for the brethren. Its last abbot was the celebrated Beatoun, then archbishop of St. Andrew's; whose power in Scotland, during several years, equalled that of Wolsey in England, nor were his ambition and haughtiness very dissimilar. Towers, cloisters, arches, and a part of the chapter-house, are yet standing; and from the style of elegance displayed in these, it may be imagined, that when complete, the building must have been a most superb one: but to the destructive spirit of fanaticism it also owes the chief part of its ruinous state, in common with many of the finest edifices in the kingdom. The church is large and handsome; and the principal gateway has been a truly noble entrance, and worthy of appertaining to the other parts of the structure. It was at this place that Robert Bruce convened his nobles; and, in a spirited remonstrance

to Pope John, asserted the antiquity and independence of the Scots, whose origin he traced to the most remote period: and it appears that his letters were attended with the desired success; for in a short space of time a bull was sent to Edward, exhorting him to renounce his pretensions, terminate his differences with his northern neighbours, and prepare for subduing the infidels; a work of too great importance to be longer neglected or delayed, by an ill-timed and improper contest with a power whose favour he ought rather to conciliate, and whose alliance might be of essential service to the nation at large. Upon the same occasion Edward had also addressed his holiness; but the remonstrance of the Scots met with more favour, and, for a short time, peace and amity remained between the two kingdoms.

In 1781, a daring attempt was made to lay the town of Arbroath under contribution, by a person of the name of *Fall*, a native of Scotland, who then commanded a French privateer, and committed various depredations on the northern trading vessels. His vessel he had named the *Fearnought;* and wishing, doubtless, to persuade the world that *he* also merited that appellation, he conceived the design of extorting a sum of money from the terrors of the people. With this view he boldly anchored before the town. In an ill-written letter, impudently sent on shore by a flag of truce, he demanded that the principal magistrates should be delivered up as hostages till a certain sum, which he required, should be paid; on pain of having the town destroyed, and the inhabitants put to death. His threats were bold, and the fears of many very great; for at that time they were almost totally defenceless, having no guns to protect their harbour, nor any military force stationed nearer to them than Montrose. An evasive answer was, however, sent to his first and second letters, which enabled them to gain a little time to collect a few old rusty arms; and, in the mean time, a detachment of troops arriving to their relief from Montrose, the doughty hero was informed that they neither feared his menaces, nor would comply with his demands: which so enraged him, that he began to fire upon the town; but little damage ensued in consequence. Finding a third epistle treated with the same contempt, his courage began to fail; and, after some further feeble efforts to obtain his ends, he thought proper to sheer off, and leave the good people of Arbroath in peaceable enjoyment of their property. The harbour is now defended by a battery, erected at the expence of the town, sufficient to protect it in future from the attempts of such a piratical invader.

On leaving Arbroath, we found the country still highly agreeable, and finely varied: and during our ride to Dundee, we ob-

served many handsome houses, and elegant improvements, luxuriant corn-fields, verdant meadows, excellent hedges, thriving plantations, and, in short, much that we admired and praised, and felt highly gratified by the sight of.—The approach to Dundee is really very fine; and the town itself is extremely beautiful, and wears a most flourishing appearance. Seated upon a rising ground, a few miles above the mouth of the Tay, it contains about twenty-five thousand persons, and many well built and even elegant habitations. The harbour, said to be capable of containing two hundred vessels of large burden, is both safe and easy of access, in all winds. The quay is wide, and constantly crowded with the bustle of business; and the warehouses on and near it are spacious and well built. Extensive manufactories of linen, thread, glass, leather, &c. are established in Dundee: and its number of shipping is very great. Some of its churches, and the town-house, are beautiful pieces of architecture; the latter fronts the market-place, and has a spacious piazza, richly ornamented, which answers all the purposes of an exchange. The tower (still known by the name of the Cross Church, from the building it belonged to being in that form) is one of the greatest ornaments of Dundee; and plainly shews that it has appertained to a structure of uncommon grandeur, which was founded by David I. in consequence of a vow which he made, during a storm at sea, to erect a place of public worship in case he escaped the perils of shipwreck. The markets are most abundantly supplied with grain of all kinds, meat, fish, garden-stuffs, &c. &c. Dundee was the birth-place of the celebrated Hector Boetius: who, at an early period of life, passed over into France; whence, as I formerly stated, he was recalled to take upon himself the charge of the university of Aberdeen, by the learned Bishop Elphinstone, whose life he afterwards published, with his account of the diocese. In 1526, he published a History of Scotland; a work now rather out of date, and totally eclipsed by subsequent and more elegant writers.—Having passed the greater part of the day in rambling about Dundee, it was late in the afternoon before we could set out on our return to Perth: a circumstance rather favourable to us than otherwise, it being generally observed that beautiful landscapes never appear to greater advantage than in the afternoon of a fine day; and a sweeter picture of rural beauty, fertility, and rich diversity of objects, than presents itself to the eye of a traveller between Dundee and Perth, it is scarcely possible for the most glowing fancy to create. The distance is about fourteen miles; along a valley watered by the sweetly-winding Tay, in breadth nearly four miles, and bounded on each side by ranges of lofty hills, on which are to be seen the finest fields, extensive woods, elegant

mansions, cultivated farms, and, on the whole, such an assemblage of rich and lovely objects as are rarely to be seen in so small a space in any other part of Britain. The road, which is excellent, descends into the plain soon after quitting "bonny Dundee:" and, skirting along the base of a ridge of hills upon the right, the river is sometimes seen in beautiful windings stealing along the vale, at others it is lost to sight amidst thick woods or large and finely-cultivated inclosures; while, in succession, gentlemen's seats appear surrounded by all that art and nature could, with their united efforts, place there to render them agreeable and beautiful. As we advanced towards the environs of Perth, the frowning precipices of Kinnoul-Hill boldly projected into the vale: on the opposite banks of the river, a scene not less enchanting, though of a different kind, arrested our attention; and we stopped awhile to contemplate a landscape as picturesque and lovely as either pen or pencil has ever attempted to pourtray. The sun was just then hiding his head behind the distant mountains, and had diffused his golden tints on the surrounding country; the river, calm, and unruffled by a single breeze, flowed silently along near the spot where we stopped, and on its bosom bore a small light vessel, whose white and fluttering sails were tinged with the reflection of the sky; on the opposite shore, the ruins of a convent, once inhabited by nuns of the Cistercian order, peeped through the luxuriant branches of a grove of trees, behind which spread a fertile plain embellished with a variety of pleasing rural objects, and bounded by a chain of hills, on which, though high, no traces of sterility appeared: in short, it was a scene which, to be fully comprehended and admired, must be seen.—We reluctantly took our leave of it, to witness another scarcely less enchanting, which opened to our view on winding round the base of Kinnoul-Hill, whence the town of Perth and its delightful environs appear to great advantage: but having in a former chapter enlarged so much upon their various beauties, I shall not fatigue my readers by a repetition of the subject, but proceed to the rich and populous city of Glasgow, and the romantic wilds of the Western Highlands.

CHAP. VIII.

CRIEFF, AND ITS MOST DELIGHTFUL ENVIRONS.—ROAD TO STIRLING.—EXTENSIVE VIEW ON APPROACHING THAT PLACE.--STIRLING.—ITS CASTLE: VIEW FROM THENCE.—INDIFFERENCE OF A TRAVELLER RESPECTING FINE PROSPECTS.—HISTORY OF STIRLING-CASTLE.—MURDER OF THE EARL OF DOUGLASS, BY JAMES II.--GOWLING-HILL.—MANUFACTURES, BUILDINGS, &c. AT STIRLING.—MR. BRUCE, THE ABYSSINIAN TRAVELLER.—BANNOCKBURN.—CARRON.—IRON-WORKS.—RIVER CARRON.—CUMBERNAULD THE CONTENTED PEASANT.—ARRIVAL AT GLASGOW.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, MANUFACTURES, MARKETS, MEMORABLE EVENTS.—EXCURSION TO PAISLEY.—THE MANUFACTURES THERE.—THE CHURCH AND MONUMENT OF QUEEN BLEAR-EYE.—CRUIKSTONE-CASTLE.—EXCURSION TO HAMILTON.—THE TOWN.—THE PALACE.—THE PARK.—CASTLE OF BOTHWELL.—LANARKSHIRE.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, &c. &c.

HAVING heard much of the beauties of Crieff and its vicinity, we selected the road leading by that way to Stirling; and from the moment of our leaving Perth, we had no cause to complain of the choice we had made, the country through which we passed being highly interesting and diversified.—Crieff is a neat small town at the distance of eighteen miles from Perth, seated upon a height just at the entrance of the highlands, and commanding the view of a rich wide-spreading plain, through which the river Earn winds its course. It is almost surrounded by ranges of high hills and mountains, some of which latter are of the most fantastic shape, and raise their peaked tops above each other even to the skies, displaying a sublimity and grandeur in their whole appearance which it is impossible to behold with coldness or indifference. The inn at which we stopped to breakfast is a spacious and commodious building, enlarged considerably of late years for the accommodation of the neighbouring gentry, who have an annual meeting at Crieff to enjoy the pleasures of the chace, of dancing, and other amusements. Crieff is in Perthshire; and though hitherto accounted a place of small importance, it seems to be rising into greater consequence if one may be allowed to form a judgment from the number of new

buildings completed and erecting in the town, and the cheerful and prosperous appearance of the whole. Its annual fairs for cattle, sheep, and a variety of articles of dress, &c. draw, from the highlands in particular, great crowds of strangers to Crieff; and families who reside in the remoter corners of the kingdom visit it on those occasions, for the purpose of both making purchases and seeing their acquaintances. From a field behind the inn, into which we strolled in the course of our ramble round the town, we had a view of the adjacent country in the highest perfection, and were most sensibly gratified with the sight. Before us, and upon the left, a rich and fertile plain watered by the Earn stretched upwards of ten miles, adorned with many pleasant seats, woods, hillocks, farms, and cottages, with numerous herds of cattle grazing in the lovely meadows, or reposing in the shade of some high-waving clump of trees. Behind us rose huge mountains covered with heath, and interspersed with pines; while on our right, we had a bird's-eye prospect of the romantic valley that forms the entrance into the highlands upon that quarter, bounded by beautiful mountains, and the extensive woods of Auchtertyre, the elegant seat of sir —— Murray, Bart.

On quitting Crieff we descended into the plain, and passed near the charming residence of lord Perth: and proceeding onward, some time afterwards we entered a wild and dreary tract of country, which continued with little intermission till we reached Dumblain, a small town upon the road to Stirling. We had intended to stop here and survey some fine ruins of an abbey; but a provoking shower of rain just then falling, compelled us to renounce our intentions, and pursue our route. We were however recompensed, in a great measure, for our disappointment, by the clearing of the sky a short time before we reached the summit of a lofty hill, directly fronting the town of Stirling, and overlooking the extensive and rich plain watered by the Forth; a plain which, for luxuriance, diversity, and beauty, is surpassed by but few, if any, in the kingdom. Full eighty miles in length, and twenty in breadth, it is bounded by hills and mountains of various shapes and heights; some of the latter assuming the boldest, wildest, and most majestic forms; and of the former, many were diversified by rich inclosures, and an innumerable assemblage of rural and pleasing objects: while in the plain, towns, villages, and castles, extensive meadows, herds of cattle, woods, hedges, and groupes of trees, are variously spread before the eye, with inimitable fancy.

Stirling is built upon a rocky hill, resembling, in some parts, the situation of the capital of Scotland, with a castle also terminating the heights towards the west; the views from which are most magnificent, and, in my opinion, far surpass those from the

castle of Edinburgh, or the Calton-Hill, comprising in one wide-extended landscape all that can gratify the eye. But that every one is not inspired with the same feeling which we felt on the occasion, is evident from the following instance:—A gentleman of our acquaintance, whom we accidentally met on his return from the western highlands, had accompanied his party to view the castle; and, on my expressing my admiration of the grandeur and beauty of the surrounding scenery, he coolly answered, "It is really pretty enough; but, for my part, I'm tired to death of fine prospects and romantic scenery: here I am *returning*, thank God, from a state of penance which I have endured for above three weeks; but if ever I am fool enough to run my neck into such another noose again, may I be hanged at once. What signify to me the fine places and fine prospects we see, and never think of again as long as we live? For my part, I can't see the use of hunting after this sort of things: we can read accounts of them, and see them all upon paper, and that is quite enough; unless it is for one of your tourists, who run about to see sights, and then make something by writing an account of them." To enter into an argument upon the subject with a person who, I dare say, was never yet interested in the welfare or happiness of any human being but himself, would have been equally unnecessary and absurd: I therefore merely bowed in silence to his speech; and, changing the topic, soon found, from the turn of his conversation, that pursuits less rational or conducive to health and morals chiefly occupied his thoughts and time; nor will it surprize any one who may chance to peruse the above account of the gentleman's taste for the picturesque and beautiful, to learn that he is one of those useless creatures frequently denominated "jolly fellows," who are drunk at least four nights in the week; and upon whom the beauties of nature, or the works of art, are little calculated to make an impression.

In ancient times the name of Stirling was *Striveling;* which it is said to have had bestowed upon it on account of the frequent strifes and contentions with which it was agitated. The period of the foundation of the castle is, however, very uncertain; but it was fortified by the Picts, and was often the occasion of disputes between them and the Scots, who at length overthrew their empire; and, endeavouring to destroy all traces of magnificence, in their rage demolished Stirling-Castle about the middle of the ninth century. In the year 855, when Donald V. ascended the throne of Scotland, the kingdom was invaded by two of the Northumbrian princes; who, uniting their strength with that of the conquered Picts, advanced and gave Donald battle, in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, in Selkirkshire: but being defeated, they were compelled to make a hasty retreat,

and the king took up his quarters in Berwick; where, heedless of danger, he rested in fancied security, and was surprized, taken prisoner, and thrown into confinement; while the victors, marching northwards, subdued all that extensive district south of the Forth. But the Scots suing for peace, and obtaining the release of their sovereign, they accepted a sum of money, and kept possession of their conquests; rebuilding and strongly fortifying the castle of Stirling, in order to preserve and secure their newly acquired territories.

Though the fortress thus completed stood on the same spot as the present, we may reasonably suppose that many additions have since been made to it. In the twelfth century it was deemed of great importance; but, upon the defeat of William, in 1172, it was delivered up, with other strong places, to the English, until the payment of a large sum, for the ransom of the king, should be made good. From the era of the accession of the Stuart family, it became a favourite place of residence of the court; and, by different sovereigns, the castle was enlarged, beautified, and strengthened, till it received its present form. Being the birth-place of James II., it was often visited by that prince; who there perpetrated the horrid crime of murder upon William earl of Douglass, the scene of which atrocious act is shewn, and fills the mind of the beholder with detestation. Upon that occasion James, who unquestionably was not one of the worst of mankind, or of his unhappy race, behaved with an unpardonable degree of treachery and cruelty: for, having supped in apparent friendship and good humour with the earl and a party of his nobles, he invited Douglass to accompany him into a private chamber; when, entering upon the subject of his league with the earls of Crawfurd and Ross, the king declared that, though highly incensed at his conduct, yet, if he would dissolve his engagements, he would grant him a full pardon; and in such a manner that suspicion should not fall on the earl for having acted dishonourably with his colleagues. Not answering so readily or so decidedly as his majesty expected, James flew in a rage, and with redoubled earnestness urged the earl to put an end to his engagements: who, on his part, being unable to resolve immediately what course to take, requested liberty to advise with his friends, before he broke his promise; an answer which so enraged the king, who had expected an immediate compliance with his demands, that, drawing a dagger, he replied, "If thou wilt not break it, I will;" and plunged the weapon into the breast of Douglass; at the same instant several of his followers rushing suddenly into the chamber, the unfortunate earl was dispatched by repeated wounds, and left dead upon the floor. To offer any comments upon an act so cruel and unworthy of a prince, would be

entirely useless in this place; the deed speaks for itself, and will ever remain a stain upon the memory and character of James. During the succeeding reign the castle was greatly embellished: and a magnificent hall, now called the Parliament-House, was built, which displays many marks of taste and grandeur in the execution. The palace was erected by James V., who was crowned at Stirling; and, according to the taste of that period, it is constructed with considerable splendour: the ornaments would now, however, be accounted heavy; and the representations of the kings, queens, and nobles, with which it is decorated, be considered by no means as flattering resemblances. Being built in the form of a square, it contains a number of apartments; the lowest range of which are converted into barracks, and the upper are appropriated for the officers. On the north side stands the chapel erected by James VI. for the celebration of his son prince Henry's baptism, in 1594; but is likewise made use of for a magazine, &c. During the regency of Mary of Guise, and in the reign of queen Anne, some further alterations were made in the castle; but since it has only been kept in proper repair, and a regular garrison quartered in it. It has a governor, lieutenant-governor, a fort-major, &c. who all enjoy suitable salaries, with houses, &c.; but the two former do not reside there. To the northward of the castle is a spot called *Gowling-hill*, which strangers are usually desired to observe, as the place on which the duke of Albany, with his two sons, were executed by command of James I.; and it is said to have obtained its present name from the howlings and lamentations there made for the death of these noblemen, whose various misdemeanours and treasonable practices rendered them both dangerous and improper subjects, in an age when the power of the sovereign was so often encroached upon by the turbulent and restless. It is also said that, upon the occasion above-mentioned, the king, with the barbarity so common in former ages, sent to the widow of the duke the heads of her husband, sons, and father, all executed at the same time, in the expectation of her being thrown off her guard by grief or passion, so far as to betray some of the secrets of the party they had headed; but well aware of the design, and mistress of herself even at that dreadful moment, she only answered the messenger that, "if the crimes imputed to them were well grounded, the king did wisely to them in delivering them up to the punishment they merited." What resolution, or what insensibility, must this woman have possessed!

Of the town of Stirling little can be said, except that it is built upon the top and sides of a ridge, which is terminated by the immense rock on which the castle stands; and that, in consequence, the streets are generally steep and narrow. The church

is a handsome Gothic edifice, now forming two separate places of worship. The tide flows up the Forth as high as the town; and the windings of the river through the plain are beautiful and striking, the distance being no less than twenty miles from Stirling to Alloa by water, though scarcely four by land. Carpets, shalloons, and coarse woollen goods, are manufactured in the town; and the number of inhabitants is estimated at about five thousand. It has a good weekly market, and coals are in abundance in different parts of the county; which, though not a large one, is remarkable for beauty, fertility, and a healthful climate.

Among the distinguished characters it has to boast of, is the late Mr. Bruce; whose travels into Abyssinia are well known to the world, and whose character in private life was such as to entitle him to the honour and respect in which his memory is now and long will be held. With a steadiness and perseverance almost unexampled, Mr. Bruce performed his arduous undertaking; and, after encountering innumerable difficulties, he succeeded in discovering the object of his search, the source of the river Nile: this having found, and examined to his satisfaction, he set out on his return, and experienced in his way the greatest distress; which, even upon revisiting his native land, was not yet at an end. His absence having been so long protracted, led to the generally received opinion of his decease, and occasioned his relations to possess themselves of his estates: in the recovery of which he had much trouble and many embarrassments to surmount, to which bad health not a little contributed; and it was a considerable time from the period of his return before he could fix himself in peace at the family place of residence, Kinnaird, in Stirlingshire. During the few remaining years of his life, he displayed much taste in the improvements and alterations which he made, and lived respected and beloved by a numerous and elegant circle of acquaintances. In 1794 he was suddenly called from the world, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, leaving behind him a small family by a second marriage.

On quitting Stirling, we bent our course towards the famous iron-works at Carron: and, at the distance of three miles from the former, we passed the village of Bannockburn, where in 1314 a desperate battle was fought between the forces of Robert Bruce, then king of Scotland, and those of Edward II.; on which occasion the latter experienced a complete defeat, and lost the chief part of his army, being no less than fifty thousand men slain upon the field; and even the king himself in imminent danger of being taken prisoner, having fled from the scene of action, pursued for several miles by the earl of Douglass, and a troop of horse: but he escaped to the castle of Dunbar, whence he again retreated to Berwick. The loss to Bruce's army is computed

at not more than four thousand men, among whom were only two of rank.

Continuing our way along a richly cultivated plain, we soon reached the neighbourhood of Carron; which, at a distance, we perceived through the thick smoke that overhung the works, the vivid flashes from the furnaces at intervals bursting forth and shedding a ray of light on the surrounding gloom and darkness.—The works, which are generally accounted the largest of the kind in Europe, afford employment to upwards of two thousand persons daily; and cover an extent of above a hundred acres of ground, with buildings, reservoirs, &c. The river Carron, on the banks of which they are placed, affords the requisite quantity of water, which is collected into large basons by canals, commencing at some distance from the place; and after turning nearly a score of large wheels, it is again conveyed away by a canal, which cost an immensity of labour and expence to complete.—The company to whom these works belong are chartered, but the number of proprietors is limited to a few individuals. Having procured an excellent breakfast at an inn close to the works, we obtained permission to inspect them; and were conducted through the whole range by a person appointed for the purpose, who explained to us whatever we appeared at a loss to understand, or that was most deserving of our notice.—But to attempt a description of the tremenduous appearance of the streams of liquid fire, the dreadful sounds of the engines, the rushing of the water, or the horrible figures of the men employed in the yards where the fuel is converted into charcoal, passing and repassing amidst volumes of smoke and mountains of fire, is a task I dare not venture upon, conscious as I am of my inability to do the subject justice, or to convey even a faint idea of the terrific appearances: suffice it to say, the whole was a most interesting, most awful spectacle, to persons unaccustomed to such scenes; and to us it was peculiarly striking, and impressively grand.—All sorts of cast-iron articles, bar-iron, cannon-balls, &c. &c. are there completed and sent off by the river, which falls into the Forth a few miles distant from the works.—The Carron takes its rise between the Forth and the Clyde, in Stirlingshire, and unites with the former in the same county, which it nearly divides into two parts.—Small as it is in comparison with these rivers, its banks have been rendered famous by being the scene of many memorable transactions—there several battles have been fought between the Scots and Picts, and there too the mighty Fingal fought with Caracal. There Oscar signalized himself by many wonderful exploits; and at the distance of one mile only, the famous battle of Falkirk was decided. In short, innumerable circumstances are related that have occurred on, or very near the banks of

Carron; which, now no more the scene of warlike deeds, is remarkable only for the aid it lends to trade and manufactures: its waters, as I before said, supplying the iron-works; and serving as the means of facilitating the conveyance of goods thence to the Firth of Forth, and to the *Great Canal* which joins the Clyde on the opposite side of the kingdom.

From Carron to an inn called Cumbernauld, we found the country upon every side very pleasant, rich, and finely varied: but on our arrival there, having no inclination to enter the house (which however seemed to be a very good one), we walked while the horses were resting; till the excessive heat of the sun obliged us to seek for shelter from its scorching rays beneath an aged tree, where a poor labouring man had already seated himself to eat his homely fare of oaten-cake and milk.—With a degree of courtesy and politeness which nature alone had taught him, he answered our inquiries respecting the customs and the mode of farming in that part of the country, and other subjects of a like kind: thus adding to the numberless instances we had before met with in the course of our journey through life, that where the disposition is naturally good, the manners also partake of its gentleness; and though untaught by fashion, and what is termed politeness, the real features of the heart are more frequently displayed in a first interview than people in general are apt to imagine, and that in trifles the temper and bias of the mind appear to an observer the most conspicuous.—Contentment likewise, that great and invaluable blessing which even the rich and powerful do not always enjoy, appeared to be an inmate in the bosom of this honest rustic; cheerfulness beamed upon his ruddy countenance, and internal peace was visible in every look and in every sentence he uttered.—On our asking him some questions relative to his situation in life, he answered that, "God had blessed him with a good wife, a thriving family, a stock of health, and a contented mind: and that though without abundance of wealth, he had always enjoyed enough of the comforts to which he had always been used to render him satisfied with his lot; which," added he significantly, "is a blessing that many of your great folks who ride in their coaches and live in fine houses do not enjoy."—However simple the remark and common the words were, his tone of voice and manner inspired us both with wonder and delight; and had time permitted us to listen much longer to his conversation, it would have gratified us highly: but the carriage just then appearing in sight, we were obliged to wish him a good afternoon; and on departing, could not avoid observing how much the happiness or misery of mankind depends upon the proper regulation of their

desires; and that in the midst of poverty, contentment sweetens every toil, and renders even a desart the seat of pleasure. Thus

> "Oft we see that some in humble state
> Are cheerful, pleasant, happy, and content;
> When those indeed that are of higher state,
> With vain additions do their thoughts torment.
> The one would to his mind his fortune bind;
> The other to his fortune frames his mind."

Approaching the rich, the populous, and extensive city of Glasgow, the scenery, which for some time had been dreary and unpleasing, began to display a variety of beauties; and to evince the powerful influence of manufactures, wealth, and commerce, in the cultivation of the ground, and the elegance of many of the habitations in view of the road.

Glasgow, the second city in Scotland, is seated on the banks of the Clyde, in the county of Lanark; and contains a number of handsome streets, elegant public buildings, and upwards of sixty thousand inhabitants. The college, situated in the High-street, is a large ancient structure, extending above three hundred feet in length, and of a proportionate height.—The principal gateway is in the centre; ornamented with rustic work, and surmounted by the royal arms, with a ballustrade projecting some distance from the wall.—Two other entrances lead into the court, where the professors reside; and to a small garden near this there are two more courts, in one of which is a public hall containing some good paintings.—In the charter-room adjoining are several portraits; one of which is a likeness of the celebrated Dr. William Hunter, painted by sir Joshua Reynolds, and accounted an admirable piece. To the east of these there is another court, open upon one side to the garden; which is well laid out, and slopes towards a stream, across which there is a bridge leading to an observatory erected at the expence of the university.—The library for the use of the students contains a large and valuable collection of books, manuscripts, and antiquities.—The university was founded by William Turnbull, bishop of Glasgow, in 1450; but it has since been greatly enlarged and ornamented. The cathedral, or High-church, is a noble piece of architecture in the Gothic taste; founded by John Ochius, bishop of Glasgow in the reign of David I., in whose presence it was consecrated.—Its situation was singular, on the summit of a ridge declining to a stream called the Mollendinnar Burn; and its form that of a cross: but, owing to the declivity of the ground, the bottoms of the first row of windows, which are very low on one end, are much elevated on the other, and admits another tier

between them and the foundation. This stately edifice is now converted into three churches, each of which is spacious and handsome. They are lighted by one hundred and fifty-seven windows; are supported by one hundred and forty seven pillars; and in circumference are nine hundred and seventy-five feet. Fortunately the fury of the reformers, which vented itself upon the finest buildings in the kingdom, was not permitted to fall upon this noble structure, through the influence of one of the magistrates, who exerted himself strenuously to save it from being destroyed. A number of other churches of elegant appearance adorn the city of Glasgow; but of these we saw only the exterior. In a handsome street called the Trongate, is the Tontine coffee-room and hotel, which were erected some years since by public subscription: the former of these is unquestionably the most spacious and elegant in the kingdom, and kept in the best order. In length it is seventy-two feet, and of a suitable height and breadth; lighted by several large windows descending to the ground, and ornamented by some magnificent lustres. The subscribers to the room pay one guinea a year for the use of the apartment; and the newspapers, reviews, &c. which it contains. Wines, spirits, and tobacco, are strictly prohibited: so that the frequenters are never annoyed by disagreeable effluvia; or, what is more disgusting, the spectacle of persons in a state of intoxication.

The jail, the town-house, and exchange, are comprized in one large edifice: and opposite to these is a statue of king William III. on horseback; the view from whence along the street is terminated by the spire of the Iron-church, which has as fine an effect as it is possible to imagine.

The royal infirmary, the town-hospital, and the halls belonging to the different companies, are peculiarly tasteful and magnificent. The assembly-rooms are most superbly fitted up; and the exterior of the building is ornamented with columns, pilastres, enriched cornices, and a variety of elegant devices. But to enumerate all the magnificent structures with which this noble city is adorned, would take up more of my time than I can with convenience spare on the present occasion; suffice it to say, they are numerous, and in a style of elegance unequalled in any part of the island.

The markets in every part of the city are abundantly supplied with all sorts of provisions; and the shops and warehouses are extensive, numerous, and elegantly furnished.

Two bridges cross the Clyde: one of them built in 1350, by a bishop Rae; the other at the expence of the town, some years ago. The latter is extremely handsome.

Of the commerce and manufactures of Glasgow it would be

unnecessary to say much; they are too well known to require my feeble efforts to render them more public, or blazon them abroad. I shall therefore only add, that the latter consist of linens, cottons, muslins, carpets, cordage, candles, soap, hats, glass, stone-ware, &c. &c.: all which are made in immense quantities for exportation; and are the means of employing many thousands of persons in the city, and to the distance of fifty miles around. Above fifteen hundred looms were in constant employment in the cotton-manufactories alone a short time ago; and it was then computed that each loom afforded work to nine persons, young and old, in the various branches of picking, carding, winding, spinning, &c.

In 1649 a dreadful fire nearly destroyed the whole of Glasgow; at the very time when a civil war, a pestilential disorder, and a famine, were threatening destruction to it and other parts of Scotland. The habitations of nearly a thousand families were burnt down; and though few lives were lost, yet numbers who till then had lived in affluence and comfort, were reduced to indigence and beggary. During several years the town was disturbed by religious and political disputes: and in 1779 serious riots occurred on account of the former; which, however, ended better than was expected.—In 1782 a sudden inundation of the river excited new apprehensions in the breasts of the citizens, and for some time wore a terrifying appearance. It began in the evening on the 14th of March, and continued to rise above thirty-six hours before it showed any signs of subsiding, during which time the water had risen twenty feet above its ordinary level: yet, which was strange, not a single life was lost but that of one woman; the damage, however, sustained by individuals from the quantity of goods destroyed in the warehouses or swept entirely away, was very considerable. Another flood in 1792 occasioned likewise much mischief, and carried away a bridge across the river; but no lives were lost.

Being desirous of paying a visit to the flourishing town of Paisley, a manufacturing place about twelve miles from Glasgow, we set out one morning at an early hour upon our intended excursion. We were much gratified by the sight of the different manufactories in the place: which consist principally of silk-gauzes, ribbands, cottons, threads, &c.; and give employment to many thousands of persons.

Paisley is a town of very ancient date, and has several monuments of former splendour. The modern buildings, such as the bank, the town-house, and the principal inn (known by the name of the Abercorn Arms), are very handsome, and would not disgrace any of our finest cities. The abbey, like most other structures of the kind, has been built in the form of a cross; but the chancel

alone now remains; in which is a window of exquisite workmanship, deservedly noticed by all strangers who visit the place. Both the east and west entrances are richly decorated with carving, in a light and tasteful style; and the whole of the outside has been more than ordinarily handsome. The interior also is very grand; and is now a highly-finished place of worship, a large sum having been expended in repairing and embellishing it. The burial-place of the Abercorn family deserves to be noticed: not indeed for its beauty; but for the extraordinary echo heard there upon shutting the door, or speaking in a loud voice.—A monument of Margery, daughter of Robert Bruce, and wife of Walter high-steward of Scotland, is in the chapel or repository of the dead. This lady, it appears, though far advanced in her pregnancy, while pursuing the amusement of hunting fell from her horse, and was killed; but surgical assistance being instantly procured, the child was brought into the world alive, and afterwards ascended the throne under the title of Robert II. From a hurt which he received in one of his eyes during the performance of the operation which gave him birth, he was denominated Blear-Eye; and the monument of his mother, from what cause I could not learn or guess, is styled that of *Queen Bleary*.

The police of Paisley is regulated by the usual magistrates, chosen annually, as in some other towns in Scotland. There is a plentiful weekly market to the road leading from Glasgow to Paisley; and about two miles from the latter are to be seen the ruins of Cruikstone-castle, a place once noted for its splendour, as well as for being the spot on which the unhappy Queen of Scots plighted her vows of love to Darnley. The situation is uncommonly beautiful; as indeed is the whole tract of country between the two towns above mentioned.

Well pleased with our excursion to Paisley, we proposed a similar jaunt to Hamilton: and accordingly, on the ensuing morning we set out for that place; passing, at a short distance from Glasgow, some extensive iron-works, the situation of which is peculiarly excellent, abundance of coals being at little more than two hundred yards off, and iron-stone of the first quality in the immediate vicinity. For some miles farther, the country we passed through wore but an indifferent aspect: but from the time we crossed the Caldor, six miles from Glasgow, the road ran almost parallel with the Clyde, through a delightful valley diversified with the most pleasing and agreeable objects; among which I must not omit to mention the ancient castle of Bothwell, seated upon an eminence, just where the Clyde sweeps most majestically through the plain, and retaining still the marks of former grandeur. Two of its towers are yet tolerably entire;

and from their tops, we were informed, the view is uncommonly magnificent and extensive. The building has been large, and its walls of prodigious strength and thickness: but time, and want of repairs, have made sad encroachments on them; and this once-proud fabric, like its former haughty owners, is now mouldering into dust. A number of the English nobility made captives at the battle of Bannockburn, were long confined in it; and its history proves its having been inhabited by, and belonging to, some of the highest personages in Scotland. Even princes have dwelt within its walls: and there it was that Edward III. published a writ for his parliament to meet and concert means of defence against the Scots in 1336; who, notwithstanding his precautions, besieged and took it the following year. Since that period it has been the property of several noble personages; among whom was the earl of Bothwell, the husband of queen Mary: after whose forfeiture, it was bestowed upon an illegitimate descendant of James V.; and again changed its master different times, till it devolved upon the present earl Douglas, whose magnificent residence is situated at a little distance from these ruins. On the opposite side of the river are the remains of a priory seated on a rock, and forming a very picturesque object in the landscape.

Pursuing our way to Hamilton, we still had to admire a most enchanting tract of country, and the windings of the Clyde, till we reached the town which stands upon a bank near the Avon and the Clyde: but there is little in its buildings, or general appearance, to afford much room for admiration; though, from the number of good houses apparently erected within a short space of time, it is evidently in a prosperous and flourishing state. The manufactory of lace formerly carried on here, is now almost entirely discontinued; and the cotton spinning and weaving, so highly beneficial to all this part of the country, is substituted in its stead. The town contains about four thousand inhabitants, and is governed by a provost and other magistrates.

The palace, the residence of the duke of Hamilton, is almost close to the town; and is a large, gloomy, heavy-looking structure, forming three sides of a square, containing some spacious apartments, and several very valuable paintings; the most remarkable of which is "Daniel in the lions' den," by Rubens, unquestionably allowed by the best judges to be the *chef d'œuvre* of that great master. The "Marriage-feast" by Paul Veronese, and a portrait of the earl of Denbigh by Rubens, are also highly extolled by connoisseurs; and in our humble opinion they appeared extremely fine. The park which surrounds the palace is flat, and presents but little either interesting or uncommon in its style of beauty: but on the height above the town there is a

banqueting-house, erected on a most commanding situation; representing the castle of Chaterault in France, of which the chief of the Hamilton family is also duke. It has a very shewy appearance when viewed at a little distance; but there are apartments in only one wing of it, and the remainder is merely a screen. From hence the circumjacent country is seen to great advantage; and indeed the prospect which it commands is as extensive and beautiful as can well be imagined.

The woods which overhang the river Avon, and form part of the pleasure-grounds at Hamilton, are sweetly romantic; and in many parts the intermixture of rocks and trees presents the most interesting pictures that a landscape painter could desire to copy. Upon the banks of the above-named river, we observed a hunting-lodge belonging to a gentleman of the name of Hamilton, which we visited on our return to the town. If art had not contrived to disfigure the simple charms of nature here, we should have found much to admire; instead of viewing with disgust a vile combination of terrace-walks, and shorn grass-plats, with rocky precipices, woods, and an impetuous stream dashing its foamy waters amidst broken crags and overhanging boughs. To render it completely ugly is, however, impossible; though much has been done to rob it of its beauty.

Having viewed all that we deemed most worthy of our notice at Hamilton and in its vicinity, we returned the following day to Glasgow, in order to prepare for our tour to the Highland district; of which we had already heard so much that we were anxious to depart, and gratify ourselves with the view of scenery so universally admired and extolled. Before I enter on another chapter, however, I shall stop to say a few words more on the subject of Lanarkshire, and some of its distinguished natives: and in the first place acquaint my readers that the county above-mentioned is not an extensive district, in several places very rugged, mountainous, and barren: its vallies, on the contrary, are rich, fertile, and (particularly Clydesdale) highly beautiful; and in different parts coal, limestone, and iron-ore, are found in great abundance.

Of Lanarkshire, the excellent and truly amiable Dr. Cullen, professor of medicine in the university of Edinburgh, was a native: and it may be proud of having such a man to boast of; one to whom science and the world stand so greatly indebted, and who will long be recollected with respect, regard, and admiration, by those who, from every quarter of the globe, acquired under his tuition, the knowledge of the healing art. To an active, powerful, and energetic mind, he added an extraordinary degree of ease in the arrangement and discussion of his subjects: and with these he combined the happy art of drawing the attention

of his pupils, of interesting them in their pursuits, of leading them on to emulation, and of inspiring them with a desire to excel; without which qualities few undertakings will prosper, and still fewer candidates arrive at success in their professions.

The late celebrated physician and anatomist, Dr. William Hunter, was also a native of Lanarkshire: and of him it is only justice to say that his talents and virtues rendered him deservedly famous; and that the sense of them will not be erased from the remembrance of posterity, while talents and virtues are esteemed among mankind. His valuable museum he left in reversion to the university of Glasgow, together with a sum of money for its support and enlargement; and an elegant building near the college is appropriated for its reception.

CHAP. IX.

ROAD TO DUNBARTON.—VILLAGE OF KILPATRICK.—SAINT PATRICK.—ROMAN WALL.—DUNBARTON CASTLE.—THE TOWN.—ITS MANUFACTORIES, &c.—SMOLLETT'S BIRTH-PLACE.—PILLAR ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY.—GLEN FRUIN.—DESPERATE BATTLE FOUGHT THERE.—LUSS.—LOCHLOMOND.—BENLOMOND.—ISLANDS, &c.—ROAD TO ARROQUAR.—BEAUTIFUL SCENERY.—INN AT ARROQUAR.—LOCH LONG.—LANDING OF THE DANES THERE.—WILD SCENERY.—DUNBARTONSHIRE.—GLENCROE.—ITS DISMAL APPEARANCE.—GLEN-KINLASS.—CAIRNDOW.—LOCH-FYNE.—PROGRESS BY WATER TO INVERARY.—STRIKING VIEW OF THE CASTLE FROM THE LOCH.—INVERARY CASTLE AND BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS.—ROMANTIC SCENERY.—FALL OF THE ARCY.—ARGYLESHIRE.—TOWN OF INVERARY, &c. &c.

BIDDING adieu to the magnificent and opulent city of Glasgow after spending about a week in surveying its numerous manufactories and splendid public buildings, we pursued our route towards Dunbarton; and at the distance of a few miles from the city, we passed the village of Kilpatrick, the reputed birth-place of St. Patrick, the tutelar saint of Ireland, the wonder-working mortal who effected the laborious task of converting to christianity the natives of the sister kingdom. He was the offspring of respectable parents; and is said to have been born about the year 373, and his baptismal name *Succoth*, signifying violent in the ancient British language. Whether he distinguished himself as a warrior at an early age, I know not; but certain it is, that he was taken prisoner by a party of Irish marauders, who were ravaging his country, and carried with them when they re-

turned to their own island. Having acquired a thorough knowledge of the language during the period of his captivity, he formed the design of converting the Irish to christianity; and escaping back to his native land, he passed over into France, in order to qualify himself for his arduous undertaking. He remained in that country during the space of thirty years: pursuing his studies, at first under the direction of a relation of his mother's, then bishop of Tours; and after his death with the bishop of Ruxerre, who ordained and gave him the appellation of *Magninim*. Being recommended to the notice of pope Celestine, he was by that pontiff approved, confirmed, and consecrated bishop, under the title of *Patricius*, and charged to leave no means untried to fulfil the task he had undertaken: in which, however, there was no great probability of success; as every person who had attempted to execute the same commission, had been cruelly treated by the natives (who were unwilling to emerge from darkness), and obliged to quit the country. Patricius, however, undismayed at the ill success of others, set out upon his mission; and, landing in the county of Wicklow in 441, in a short time converted a descendant of the king of Leinster. Thence proceeding to Dublin, and afterwards to Ulster, he founded a church, and laboured with unwearied assiduity and tolerable success for several years: when returning again to Scotland, he visited the Isle of Man, converted the inhabitants, and once more passed over to Ireland; where in the course of a few years more he completed his undertaking, and spent the remainder of his days at Armagh and Saul, where he erected two monasteries, established several schools, and carefully enforced the doctrines he had taught. In 493 he died; and, according to some accounts, was interred at Down, in Ireland: but upon that point the Scotch and Irish disagree, both nations laying claim to the honour of his burial-place.

At Kilpatrick, the Roman wall erected by Agricola, extending from the Forth to the Clyde, was terminated; and stones dug up in its tract, bearing various inscriptions, are to be seen in the college at Glasgow.—The country extending from Glasgow to Dunbarton is peculiarly agreeable; and charmingly diversified on both sides of the Clyde, by handsome seats, rich meadows, woods, villages, and a variety of beautiful and rural objects. At the distance of nearly a mile from any hill, or even rising ground, stands the remarkable and lofty rock of Dunbarton: at full tide surrounded by water; and divided on the top into two distinct points inaccessible on all sides except by a narrow path with steps cut in the solid rock, and strongly defended. By whom it was first fortified, seems doubtful: but in the 7th century it is mentioned as a place of strength; and was long afterwards considered to be of great importance by the invaders of

this country, who never failed to take possession of it when able to accomplish their purpose. In the contests between the Scots and English, the latter held it during a considerable time; but it was wrested from their hands by the hero Wallace, whose sword is yet preserved as a monument of this great exploit. Within the ramparts which defend the entrance, are a guard-house and apartments for the officers of the garrison: from thence, a long flight of steps leads to the summit, where there are some batteries mounted with cannon; and in the hollow between the points, there are barracks, and a deep well of excellent water. On the summit of the rock, the real Scotch thistle (now rarely to be seen) grows in great abundance; and thence, likewise, the prospect is extensive and beautiful; commanding the Clyde for many miles, its rich and varied shores, a distant view of Greenock and Port-Glasgow and ranges of high and variously-shaped mountains, hiding their blue tops in the misty vapour of the horizon, as far as the eye can reach.

Having sent the carriage forward to Dunbarton, we proceeded thither on foot, after viewing the rock and castle, and found breakfast waiting for us at the inn; a mean, dirty house, little worse in its appearance than most others in the place: which, though pleasantly situated near the confluence of the Clyde and Leven, has little to recommend it to notice in any respect. Its manufactories are, however, in a thriving state; and in time the town will, no doubt, improve in its appearance. Glass-houses, thread-manufactories, and bleacheries, at present occupy many hands, and are said to be carried on with great spirit. Near the town are the remains of a monastery founded by a countess of Lenox, and inhabited by a community of priests, but of what order I have forgotten.

Crossing the river Leven by a very good bridge, and proceeding towards Luss, we passed the house in which Smollett was born; and nigh it observed a column erected to his memory by a near relation, on which is a Latin inscription commemorating his abilities and virtues. Some distance farther on, we crossed the stream called Fruin; which pours its waters through a deep and narrow dell denominated "Glen Fruin," or "the glen of sorrow," an appellation which it probably received soon after it had been the scene of a desperate engagement, between the then powerful clans of Macgregor and Colqhouns, in 1602. On this occasion the holy fraternity residing in the monastery near Dunbarton, impelled either by curiosity (that powerful passion which even a seclusion from the world cannot eradicate from the breast of mankind in general) or perhaps by the desire of affording aid to the sufferers in the conflict, betook themselves to the scene of action: when, dreadful to relate! the whole body were

cruelly butchered by the Macgregors, who proved victorious, and carried off a prodigious booty in cattle, horses, &c.; and, it is added also, put their prisoners to death with the most wanton barbarity. With minds impressed with horror at the recollection of the bloody deeds above narrated, we were pursuing our way, when suddenly Lochlomond stretching far before us, grouped with islands and bounded by lofty mountains, burst upon us, and in an instant banished Glen Fruin, and the atrocities committed there, entirely from our thought. Never did a more enchanting prospect meet the eye of mortals; or one which, though so often elegantly described, and no less admirably painted, so far surpasses all that has been said of its truly beautiful and interesting scenery. Crossing the water of Luss (a stream that, like the Fruin, falls into the Loch from a narrow and romantic valley), we shortly after reached the inn; a small house standing at a short distance from the borders of the Loch, and near a few cottages, a church and a minister's lowly dwelling, sweetly situated by a grove of trees, and extending to the water's edge. Having used the precaution of securing quarters for the night, lest others should arrive in our absence and monopolize the only tolerable beds the house contains, we engaged a boat and two rowers to carry us across the Loch, to the vicinity of the rugged and proudly-towering Benlomond; which, though we had no intention of ascending it, we were desirous of viewing more nearly. Projecting a considerable way into the water, its broad and heath-clad sides are spotted with broken crags and frightful precipices, with poor, miserable, stunted trees interspersed: particularly on the western side; where also some wretched cottages are to be seen, surrounded by little patches of verdure, tending rather to heighten the wildness of the scene than to add to its beauty. Its elevation above the Loch is three thousand two hundred and forty feet; and, notwithstanding its height, it is surpassed by other mountains in the kingdom. From its summit, in a clear day, the view is said to be grand and extensive; and many persons undergo the fatigue of climbing up to the top of its highest point. They are, however, seldom rewarded for their pains; the frequent clouds that pass over it generally enveloping it in a heavy mist, which precludes the possibility of seeing to any distance: or if for a short time the atmosphere should be free of vapour, no reliance can be placed on its continuation; as in a moment it is obscured, and the luckless observer drenched in heavy rain, while below all is as bright and clear as possible; which we had occasion to remark during the time we spent upon the water. Steering towards the north end of the Loch, we passed several of the most beautiful islands. Of these there are no fewer than twenty-four, of different sizes;

some of them bare, uncultivated, and rocky; others of greater extent, presenting a charming assemblage of wood, verdure, and rocks: particularly that called Inchmurrin, on which are the ruins of a castle most delightfully situated on an eminence amidst embowering groves; while round its mouldering walls numbers of deer are feeding, or reposing in security beneath the shade of some wide-spreading trees. A game-keeper resides there for the preservation of the deer, and the whole belongs to the duke of Montrose. Inchtavannach, or Monk's Island, is also large and wildly romantic on one side; while on the other it is covered with corn-fields, cottages, and wood. Inchtonan is a still more charming spot; adorned with a profusion of mountain-ash and yews whose deep-green clothing forms a lovely contrast to the lighter shades of the former. On Inchcaillach, or Nun's Island, are the remains of a chapel belonging to a small convent once seated on that spot. But to particularize each, would be unnecessary and fatiguing to my readers. As I have now mentioned the most considerable, I shall take my leave of them, and proceed to the borders of the Loch: where, not far distant from the village of Luss, stands the elegant residence of Sir James Colqhoun, Bart. a large and handsome mansion, surrounded by some of the most enchanting scenes in nature; commanding a delightful view of the Loch, and, though kept in the best order, undisguised in any manner by the hand of art.

On both sides of the Loch the mountains are prodigiously lofty: but not fatiguing by their sameness to the eye, like those upon the borders of Lochness already mentioned; in many parts they are clothed with wood, even from the summits to the water's edge; in others, rising abruptly into broken crags and precipices, they project beyond each other far into the Loch, and altogether form one of the most delightful pictures that can be conceived. For several hours we rowed round the islands and along the banks of this charming sheet of water. At length, returning to our inn at Luss, we spent the remainder of one of the sweetest evenings we had ever beheld, in wandering along the margin of the Loch, and visiting the little church and burial-ground, till night's deepening shades stole over the horizon, and hid from us those lovely scenes which seemed at each succeeding glance to gain fresh charms, and afford new and more interesting prospects upon every side. During the night it rained very heavily: but in the morning the weather became quite fair, and the wet which had fallen served only to diffuse a pleasant freshness over the woods, and give additional beauty to the little torrents that poured down from the mountains' tops; bounding from cliff to cliff, and glistening through the branches of the tall birch-trees that over-hung their channels. The road still led us near the

Loch, amidst the most delightful woods of larch, pines, birch, and mountain-ash: the range of mountains on our left sometimes projecting into the water to a considerable distance, in little jutting promontories receding again behind each other in beautiful disorder; then, boldly sweeping along the shore, gradually advanced towards their opposite neighbour, the high and proudly-soaring Benlomond; whose rugged side rose in a gentle slope from the water's edge, till, gaining a certain height, it began to assume a more awful and majestic appearance, and by degrees towered to the very skies in brown and variegated points, over which the heavy clouds passed slowly, and at intervals entirely hid its summit from our sight in almost impenetrable darkness. From a deep romantic glen issues the water of Uglass; after crossing which near its confluence with the Loch, we ascended to a lofty promontory called the Point of Firkin. Having safely reached the summit, we stopped to cast "a lingering look behind" upon the charming scenery we were about to quit for ever, in long perspective extending nearly six-and-twenty miles before our eyes, and in some parts more than six in breadth: the noble Loch and finely varied islands seeming as if beneath our feet; while its lofty boundaries raised their peaked tops to the very sky, and in the vale green meadows, corn-fields, and the pleasant village of Luss, formed a landscape, which, "take it for all in all, we ne'er shall look upon the like again."

Pursuing our way to Arroquar (for few persons now stop at the solitary inn at Tarbert, opposite the upper end of Benlomond), the road on a sudden led us into a glen at once wild, desolate, and dreary; through which having travelled nearly two miles further, we reached the head of Lochlong, an arm of the sea branching up from the firth of Clyde. Turning a little to the left, we came to a large and handsome inn, delightfully situated upon an eminence overlooking the Loch, and nearly surrounded by venerable trees which give it an air of beauty and of grandeur unlike any thing usually to be seen round such places of public resort. In order to account for this, it will be necessary to add, that Arroquar was formerly the residence of the chiefs of the clan M'Farlane; but is now the property of a gentleman residing in a distant county, who lets it for the purpose of an inn. Here, as the weather began again to wear an unpromising aspect, and the house was clean and comfortable, we agreed to remain till the following day; and the rain entirely ceasing in the afternoon, we were enabled to ramble among the woods and wilds in the environs of Arroquar, with much pleasure and satisfaction to ourselves. In these parts is some of the boldest and most truly romantic scenery which we had an opportunity of seeing during the whole course of our journey; but which tra-

vellers in general overlook in their impatience to reach either Lochlomond, or the magnificent and beautiful seat of his grace of Argyle at Inverary. Besides the noble sheet of water stretching farther than the eye can reach towards its parent ocean, innumerable mountains in various shapes and elevations rise towering over each other's lofty heads in all directions round this wild romantic spot; where rocks and precipices, woods and hollow-sounding torrents, combine to form a scene at once august, impressive, and sublime. Loch-long, or Luing, on the banks of which stands Arroquar, signifies in the Gaelic language, "The lake of ships:" and is of sufficient depth to bear small vessels, with which at a certain season of the year it is nearly covered; the quantities of herrings that pass up from the firth, bringing numbers of persons employed in the fisheries thither, in pursuit of them. In the year 1250, the Danes, who for many ages plundered and annoyed the inhabitants of Scotland, having threatened a renewal of their ravages, the people collected all the property they could remove, and hastened to convey it (as they imagined) to a place of safety, on one of the islands in Loch-Lomond. The enemy, having obtained intelligence of this, sailed up to the head of Loch-Long: and landing, dragged their boats across the isthmus that separates the Lochs; and embarking again at Tarbert, soon reached the spot which they sought. Having secured the booty, put many persons to death, and robbed the religious houses in the neighbourhood, they returned by the same route, and got safe to sea with their ill-acquired riches. Fired with the hope of greater plunder, and of equal success, a few years only elapsed before Haco, prince of Norway, again invaded the same part of the kingdom, bringing with him a prodigious army and a large fleet. Landing not far from the mouth of the Firth of Clyde, he gave battle to Alexander III., who had advanced to meet him: but fortune proving unfavourable, his army was defeated, and, according to some historians, almost entirely destroyed; a circumstance so distressful in its consequences, and so mortifying to his countrymen, that they did not renew an attempt on the kingdom, though the hopes of plunder frequently prompted them to wish they were able to venture on it.

Loch-Long, Loch Lomond (which is entirely a fresh water lake), and several others of lesser note, are in the county of Dunbarton: a district of moderate extent, chiefly mountainous and rugged; presenting many romantic and highly picturesque scenes to a traveller, but of little intrinsic value except for the pasture of a small hardy breed of cattle. In the low parts of the county, and particularly upon the banks of the Leven, the soil is richer, and the mode of cultivating it much better, than in

other places in the same district; which may in a great measure be attributed to the increasing opulence and spirit diffused by the flourishing state of the manufactories and bleacheries.

Resuming our journey on the ensuing morning, soon after quitting Arroquar, and passing round the head of Loch-Long, we entered the wild and gloomy vale of Glencroe; where, to use the language of Ossian, "Autumn is dark on the mountains; grey mists rest on the hills; the whirlwind is heard on the heath; dark rolls the river through the narrow plain."—Bounded on both sides by stupendous and rugged mountains, this dreary valley is almost destitute of every trace of man (the road cut by the military some years ago excepted); and so nearly do the summits of the mountains join in many places, that the openings seem to be barely sufficient to admit of light enough to give an awful solemnity to the scenery around, and guide the astonished traveller along the way that leads to its conclusion. Except the remains of one solitary shepherd's hut, no human habitation presented itself to our sight during the course of our ride through this dismal valley; which is upwards of six miles in length, but in the widest part not above three hundred yards in breadth. The rain which had fallen the preceding day and night, had swelled each little rill into a perfect torrent; and these innumerable natural cascades poured down the steep and rugged sides of the mountains, bounding from precipice to precipice with inconceivable rapidity, and roaring with a tremendous din. We observed large flocks of sheep, perched on the craggy steeps; but not a single human creature did we see in all this gloomy wilderness. A stream runs swiftly along the bottom of the glen, upon whose banks some little spots of verdure are discoverable; and in one part there is likewise a small loch, overhung by dark and frowning precipices, whose dismal shades are still more deeply reflected in the water, and give additional strength to its naturally black and sombre appearance. In many places every mark of soil and vegetation is washed away by the frequent and heavy rains that pour in torrents down the sides of the mountains; and in their stead, bare rocky fragments apparently just ready to precipitate themselves into the vale below, or deep-worn channels yawning in terrific wildness, are to be seen on each hand. Not a single tree or bush of any kind shoots up to vary the horrid desolation of Glencroe; where nature seems to have studiously omitted placing aught that could charm the eye, or render even the poorest of the human race inclined to make it their abode. Ascending a long and wearisome height, we at last reached the spot at which all travellers stop to give their horses time to breathe. Here is a stone close to the road-side, with the words "Rest and be

thankful" inscribed on it; and so indeed they may be who are about to quit such a gloomy desert. From thence the road again descends into another narrow but less terrific valley, called Glen-Kinlass; in which there runs a small river in a rocky channel, but neither tree nor human habitation is to be seen on either side, and for the space of four miles it is one continued scene of horror and sterility. Approaching the summit of a hill near the termination of Glen-Kinlass, there appeared some scattered marks of cultivation, and a few miserable hovels at a little distance showed us that the country was not totally uninhabited; yet wretched indeed must be the lot of those doomed to drag on existence in the midst of such horrid desolation. Wretched at least would such a situation be to any one accustomed to more fertile and agreeable regions: but to the natives of these bleak and barren moors, they are perhaps not entirely destitute of charms; and in all situations and conditions of men's lives, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." From the hill above the village of Cairndow, the prospect opens upon the vale beneath in the most striking manner; exhibiting a thousand beauties to the eye, hitherto fatigued with the sad dreary sameness of the scenery just left behind, and ready to discover innumerable charms in a far less pleasing spot than that which then presents itself to view.—Stretching between lofty hills, almost entirely clothed with wood, Loch-Fyne appears as smooth as a mirror; and reflecting on its surface the deepened shades of the mountain top, and variegated tints of the trees that sweep in wild luxuriance along its banks. The afternoon was sweetly serene and beautiful; and, thinking we should be much more gratified by pursuing our way to Inverary by water, we engaged a boat at Cairndow, and ordered the carriage and horses to be brought thither when the latter were sufficiently refreshed. We entered our barge; and, gliding down the Loch, enjoyed at least as much real delight and heart-felt satisfaction in viewing the charming scenery along its banks, as even the famed Egyptian queen experienced during her celebrated voyage down the Nile, surrounded by all the pomp and grandeur which luxury and vanity could suggest.

At the upper end of Loch-Fyne the space of water is but narrow: and is encompassed by a variety of lofty heath-clad hills, rising in wild disorder behind each other, and seen in long perspective from the village; in which, I believe, I omitted to mention that there is a very decent inn.--Widening as it advances lower down the valley, the Loch gradually attains the breadth of three miles: its banks upon the right being high, woody, and precipitous; and on the left presenting an agreeable intermixture of corn-fields, meadows, rocks, woods, and a number of little

half-concealed vallies, running back into the interior of the country, with the elegant residence of Sir Alexander Campbell, of Ardkinlass, some scattered cottages, and decent farm-houses; the whole enlivened by numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle browsing upon the rocky steeps, or reposing in the meadows near the margin of the Loch. Our boatmen did not appear to be correct as to the distance by water between Cairndow and Inverary, but we imagined it to be nearly twelve miles (by the road it is fourteen): and in that space the views are really delightful; though nothing in comparison with that which presents itself on turning round a promontory near the castle, where that noble edifice, with its majestic woods, first strikes upon the sight. Expanded to the breadth of nearly six miles, the Loch there forms an almost semicircular bason; divided from the castle only by a beautiful lawn, adorned with a variety of the finest spreading trees, and backed by ranges of towering mountains: while on another jutting piece of ground stands the town of Inverary, with its neat white houses, consisting of a few tolerable streets, and containing upwards of twelve hundred inhabitants, who are chiefly employed in the herring-fishery. Loch-Fyne, which is an arm of the sea, also branching off from the Firth of Clyde, abounds with the choicest herrings; the catching, curing, and exporting of which, afford employment to several hundred persons during a considerable portion of the year. The town formerly lay very near the castle; but a few years since a new one was erected by the Duke; and is now a considerable addition to the view from the park and the surrounding country.

Inverary-castle is a large square edifice, constructed of a blueish-coloured stone; and was begun to be built by Archibald duke of Argyle in 1745, but not completed till after his decease; since which time immense sums of money have been expended in improving and beautifying a place which, in point of romantic scenery and tasteful decorations, stands unrivalled in the British dominions. At the same time, these decorations are so admirably suited to the form and nature of the scenery around, that it is scarcely possible to discover any thing to disapprove in the plans that have been adopted in laying out the wide-extended grounds belonging to this princely mansion; which, though by some late tourists represented as a heavy, gloomy structure, is in my humble opinion, and in that of infinitely better judges, a fabric well suited to the place it stands in. The approach to the castle from the town is sweetly rural; and on entering the hall, the *coup d'œil* is at once grand, singular, and impressive. This noble place of entrance is lighted by a square glazed tower upon the roof, and decorated on all sides

with numerous and various sorts of warlike instruments, arranged in the nicest order along the walls, and well suited to the style of grandeur and power there long was, and still is, attached to the chieftain of a clan of brave and hardy Highlanders. Seldom inclined to spend much time in viewing the interior of what are termed grand houses, and still seldomer to describe them, I shall only briefly state, that at Inverary-castle the apartments shewn to strangers are spacious, and elegantly fitted up; contain some excellent paintings, and appear to unite convenience, grandeur, and comfort, with a share of splendour and magnificence equal to what is to be seen in most of the dwellings of the affluent and great. The castle is seated on an extensive lawn, nearly a quarter of a mile from the Loch, which spreads itself into a noble bason immediately in view of the building; and the plain stumps of majestic trees and avenues of spreading beeches, give an appearance of grandeur to the whole which it is impossible for me to convey a just idea of. At a little distance from the castle runs the river Roey; close by the foot of a high and peaked mountain, rising abruptly from, and forming a boundary to, the plain upon the right; while on the opposite side, and along the back of the lawn, huge mountains, piled in strange confusion above each other, form a barrier against the fury of the winter's storms. These for the most part are entirely covered with wood, intermixed with grey rocks: and on the steep sides of the singular and abruptly towering *Dunequoich* already mentioned, trees of all hues, broom whins and craggy precipices, form a complete covering; leaving only at the top a small plat of grass, on which is a watch-tower, commanding a most admirable and extensive prospect over the circumjacent country. From the castle there is a charming view of the Loch and its opposite shores, a part of the town, and an almost boundless extent of woods, mountains, verdant meads, and rugged precipices, the bridge across the Arey, and such an assemblage of the picturesque and romantic, the rural and the beautiful, as have seldom, if ever, been combined in one view, but at that truly charming place. The Shira, another river, whose waters likewise unite with those of the Loch, after embellishing the park at Inverary, runs through a valley that forms a part of the domain, where rural beauty and diversity of objects are displayed in the most charming manner imaginable: where herds of cattle, sheep, and horses, feed in countless numbers; and where there are buildings raised for the purposes of barns, dairy, sheds, &c. in such situations, and with such taste and judgment, that each appears an ornament to the picture, and affords another of the many proofs to be observed at Inverary, of the noble spirit and tasteful fancy of the designer of the various improvements. But lovely

as are the charms of Glenshira, they are surpassed by those which present themselves in a woody valley at the distance of two miles above the castle, through which the Arey winds its course. Here, supported by ledges of rocks, a wooden bridge is thrown across the stream, which, after rushing with impetuosity for some considerable way amidst large loose stones, is seen to tumble with violence over a precipice, into a hollow-worn chasm, from which it again arises, to flow in placid calmness; till, meeting with fresh obstructions in its passage, it again becomes outrageous, and dashes itself over another ledge of rocks, less lofty than the former, but not inferior in romantic beauty: while on each side the banks are steep and rugged, clothed thick with wood, which in many places overhangs, and almost totally obscures, the sight of the water. Close by the second fall, a mill is most romantically situated, and adds much to the scene; which altogether is enchantingly picturesque, and calculated to inspire the most pleasing sensations of wonder and delight. The lands in the vicinity of the mill, as well as a prodigious extent of country besides, the duke holds in his own possession; and though little corn is raised in it, great plenty of grass and sheep-pasture is there to be found. But though every precaution is used to preserve the former for hay, it seldom properly dries in the open air: for which reason, his grace has caused to be constructed several large barns, similar to those I mentioned when describing Invernessshire; into which it is carried as soon as mown, and spread on planks, or hung on pegs, on which also the sheaves of corn are preserved, instead of being stacked in the open fields. The gardens and hot-houses are well situated and spacious: and even the most insignificant of the domestic offices proclaims the taste and the wealth of the owner; and they are all in a style of elegance, united with convenience, scarcely possible to be excelled in any part of the world.

Loch-Fyne is upwards of thirty miles in length: and is broken on the sides by several little creeks and promontories, with vast ranges of woody mountains, forming its boundaries; the produce of which yields considerable revenues to the proprietors, who cut the woods every twenty years, and derive large sums by the sale of it.

Argyleshire is in general a mountainous and rugged district, intersected by rivers and lochs, and a number of deep glans or valleys: some of these are fertile, and produce tolerable crops of grain and pasture; others, like Glencroe and Glen-Kinlass, destitute of vegetation, and seem but the receptacle of shattered rocks and gravelly heaps, washed by the swelling torrents from their steep and awful boundaries. Innumerable wild-fowls are to be met with in this extensive county, and on some of the

least-frequented hills deer yet abound; while in the lochs and rivers, as well as on the coast, fish of every sort are in the greatest plenty. Indeed, to a person who is indifferent to the rigours or frequent changes of the weather, who is fond of fishing, shooting, or agricultural pursuits, and above all, seeks for a cheap retirement from the world, Argyleshire is the best suited for those purposes of any part of the united kingdoms: as it possesses within itself a number of natural advantages; and is besides so near the Firth of Clyde, with an easy communication to Glasgow, that articles not produced here may be procured at a very cheap rate. Slates, limestone, and some coal, are found in the county; and on the shores a profusion of sea-weed, for making kelp, or manuring the land in its natural state. The roads are excellent, though in some parts hilly; and the communication with the capital by post, or otherwise, is regular and easy. The remains of many castles and strong fortresses are yet to be seen in various parts of Argyleshire, several of which have been in days of yore the scene of many memorable transactions. There Fingal reigned; whose potent arm arrested the progress of the conquerors of the world, and there likewise are many of the scenes so beautifully described by Ossian. Inverary is the county town, and there the assizes are held: but trials for capital offences are never numerous; the natives of that part of the kingdom being still a sober, industrious, and hardy race, unpolished it is true, but courteous by nature, and hospitable even in the extreme; warmly attached and faithful to their chiefs; contented with their situation; and when compelled by necessity to quit their native mountains, eager to revisit them, and unwilling afterwards to depart again.

CHAP. IX.

DEPARTURE FROM INVERARY.--ROAD TO DALMALLY.--LOCH-ARVE.--TRADITION RESPECTING ITS FORMATION.--MOUNTAINS OF BAN CRUACHAN, BAN ARVE, AND BAN BUEE.—CHURCH-YARD AT DALMALLY.—GLEN ORCHY.—TYNDRUM.—PARTIALITY OF THE HIGHLANDERS FOR WHISKEY.—SUPERSTITIONS, NATIONAL MUSIC, MODE OF LIVING, &c.—STRATH FILLAN.—SAINT FILLAN'S POWER OF CURING INSANE PERSONS.—HIS CHAPEL AND HOLY POOL; BY WHOM THE FORMER WAS ERECTED.--WONDERFUL EFFICACY OF SAINT FILLAN'S BONES, AT THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.—LOCH DOCHART.—RUINS OF ITS CASTLE.—KILLEN.—ROMANTIC SCENERY.—LOCH TAY.—APPROACH BY WATER TO KENMARE.—SEAT OF THE EARL OF BREADALBANE.—THE HERMITAGE AND WATER-FALL.—ROAD TO DUNHELD.—INVER.—DUKE OF ATHOL'S BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS AT DUNHELD.—OSSIAN'S HALL.—FALL OF THE RIVER BRAN.—ATHOL HOUSE.—BERRIAM HILL.—TOWN OF DUNHELD.—ITS ANCIENT MONASTERY.—RUINS OF THE CATHEDRAL.—ANCIENT MONUMENTS.—RETURN TO PERTH, &c.

AFTER passing two days at Inverary, and during that time seeing all that we possibly could of the delightful scenery of which I have attempted a short description in the preceding pages, we set out early in the morning for Dalmally; and for several miles pursued our way amidst the duke's plantations, and through the charming valley where the Arey pours its waters over a rocky bed. It was such a morning as a true admirer of nature's lovely scenery would have chosen for viewing these romantic regions. It was a "morning returned in joy;" in which "the mountains shewed their grey heads," and "the white wave" was "seen tumbling" over "the distant rock:" the air was sweetly mild; the sky of purest azure; and every object around appeared in perfect harmony and loveliness. Even

> ———"the shrill-tongued thrush
> Mended his song of love; the sooty blackbird
> Mellow'd his pipe, and soften'd every note;
> The eglantine smell'd sweeter, and the rose
> Assum'd a dye more deep, whilst ev'ry flow'r
> Vied with its fellow plant in luxury of dress."

At length, however, we emerged from these delightful woods, and entered on a bleak and dreary tract; appearing doubly wild and ugly, from the striking contrast it presented to the charming scenery we had left behind. Devoid of even those tremendous objects that in other desolate regions give a sublimity and grandeur to the prospect, and render it, though wild, not totally uninteresting, this barren district offered not one single feature to afford the smallest gratification to the eye, or that could for a moment divest it of cheerless and even disgusting uniformity. A few mean huts, inhabited by a wretched-looking crew of squalid creatures, at intervals appeared within our sight: but the look of the dwellings, and their miserable inhabitants, served only to increase the wildness of the scene; which with little interruption continued equally disagreeable, till we had travelled almost nine miles on our way. We then arrived in view of an extensive sheet of water, called Loch-Arve, and the high-topped mountain named Ben Cruachan; which rises on the northern extremity of the Loch, and soars to the height of four thousand feet above the level of the water. Loch-Arve, which is about thirty miles in length, discharges itself into the sea, at a place named Bunarve, where there is a salmon and herring fishery. It is adorned with several islands, prettily tufted with trees, and varied by the ruins of some castles and an ancient church. It abounds with trout, salmon, char, and eels: which last the country people there, as well as in other parts of North Britain, hold in the utmost detestation, supposing them to be a species of serpent; and would rather endure the horrors of want than eat one of these (as they imagine) forbidden reptiles. The environs of Loch-Arve are pleasing, though less grand and romantic than those of Loch-Lomond: frequently, however, displaying picturesque and interesting views, and a variety of steep and odd-shaped hills and mountains, diversified by rocks and wood, and cultivated grounds; on the whole exhibiting a very pretty landscape, and affording many sweet scenes for the exercise of the painter's skill.

The waters of Loch-Arve arise in the mountain called Ben Cruachan. According to tradition, the spring from which they issue was named "the Fatal Spring," because in days of old, the daughter of a neighbouring chieftain having it in charge from her father, not to permit the waters to exceed a certain limit, and to cover the spring each evening at sun-set with a stone in which there was a magical charm that stopped the flowing of the water while laid upon that spot,—the damsel, alas! like other damsels in modern times, was a little giddy-headed, and, unmindful of the lesson she was taught, omitted to place the cover on the spring as directed. In consequence of this instance

of neglect, the waters continued rising; and at length, bursting their boundaries, swept down upon the plain, and ere the unhappy maiden recollected her fault, the vale was deluged, and by the morning's dawn the Loch already mentioned was completely formed. Upon this, perceiving her error was irremediable, and distracted at her omission of her duty, she threw herself from the summit of a neighbouring precipice, and found relief from her misery in the arms of death. Upon the truth of the above still-popular Highland legend, I shall attempt no comments, leaving the readers to judge of its authenticity without my interference: and only assure them, it is generally credited by the natives of those districts; whose belief in the marvellous, and confidence in spells and charms, still prevail in a very strong degree.

Dalmally is a single inn, situated a short distance from Arve, and at the entrance into Glen-Orchy. The objects most striking to be seen from hence are the lofty mountains of Ben-Arve and Ben-Buce, the former of which serves as a weather-gage to the country folks for many miles around. Not far from the inn, we had a charming view of the Loch, its surrounding scenery, and the ruins of Kilchurn-castle; once a place of considerable strength, now belonging to the earl of Breadalbane, who possesses large estates in that part of the kingdom; indeed, I may add, almost a principality in extent. In the church-yard are several stones, with curious inscriptions on them, said to have been brought hither from the island of Icolmhill, the spot where the first preachers of christianity that appeared in Britain retired to instruct their pupils; but for what purpose these heavy masses were removed to Dalmally, seems totally unknown or forgotten.

On leaving Dalmally, we entered a narrow tract denominated Glen-Orchy, watered by the streams of that name, and bounded by high mountains. The plain contains some few scattered cottages, a church, the remains of a castle, and a scanty portion of cultivated ground, with a great deal of wood; which, viewed together, form a pleasant and by no means uninteresting picture of simple nature. About five miles from Dalmally we entered into another and more wildly-romantic glen, in which is a small loch discharging itself into a river that flows along the vale; but not a single human habitation could we perceive, till, after traversing a space of several miles, we came in view of a few miserable cottages, and large flocks of sheep browzing upon the heights above our heads. From thence again we pursued our way along a wider but equally wild and romantic tract; bounded by high, bare, dark-brown coloured mountains, thinly inhabited, and wearing a much more cheerless aspect than either of the valleys we had traversed in the former part of the stage.

At the small village called Tyndrum, we stopped to rest our horses; and finding that the next place where we could procure decent quarters, was too far distant for us to reach it with ease that evening, we resolved on remaining where we were. Notwithstanding the unpromising appearance of the inn, we were here neither badly lodged nor entertained, and found the people of the house both civil and obliging; which more than once reminded us how seldom we ought to form a judgment of either persons or things from their mere exterior appearance. Having several hours to ramble about during the remainder of the afternoon and evening, we ascended many of the neighbouring heights, in hopes of obtaining a more agreeable view beyond them than that which is to be seen in the dull dreary valley round Tyndrum. But after all our labour and fatigue, disappointment succeeded: and other scenes as wild and bleak, with hills and heights in countless numbers, appeared behind; among which were Ber Doran, and Ben Muir, supposed to be the highest point of land in Scotland, from whence issue rivers which flow to both the east and western coasts.

Tyndrum, though by the inhabitants sometimes dignified with the name of a town, is merely a cluster of low wretched cottages; the inn, though far from being a stately mansion, being the best in the place. Yet mean as the houses are, and poor as the inhabitants appear to be, they seem in general cheerful and contented, and these are two essential points towards the attainment of happiness.—Though situated in Perthshire, of which I have already said a good deal, Tyndrum neither in its own appearance, nor that of its inhabitants, bears any resemblance to the lower parts of the county. The dress and the language are both different: the Gaelic or Erse being still in general use around the former; and the bonnet, short coat, and philabeg, also much worn. There are few, however, who cannot speak a little English, and upon occasions lay aside their ancient style of dress. Milk, with some coarse oatmeal prepared in cakes or in porridge, is their constant food: meat they seldom taste; but whiskey (a spirit extracted from barley principally) they are universally attached to, and drink whenever they can procure it. Indeed in most parts of the kingdom it is in use with the lower class of people, and even the children in the Highlands will swallow a glass of it without being either injured or intoxicated: it is reprobated as a destructive beverage by persons in genteel life; and now never admitted at the tables of any one above the rank of a mechanic, or low farmer.—As a proof of the love they bear to this same liquor, I shall mention a circumstance before omitted, of our meeting and having some conversation with a boy, the evening we spent at Luss, who informed us

he had been detained two winters before for nearly six weeks among the mountains by a fall of snow, during which time the inhabitants of the hut where he resided subsisted entirely upon ewe-milk cheese, a very scanty portion of oaten-bread, and whiskey, which last article he mentioned with particular emphasis; and on my inquiring if he was not heartily tired of his confinement and poor fare, he answered, "No, and would not had the time lasted till now, if there had been enough of whiskey, but it was nearly done before I got away;" a strange declaration for a lad whose appearance proclaimed him not then above fifteen years of age. Yet he did not look as if he had been injured by his favourite liquor: health and contentment glowed on his countenance, and his steps as he ascended the steep side of the mountain upon leaving us were light, and betokened activity and bodily strength in a more than ordinary degree.—How to reconcile this with the usual consequences of dram-drinking, particularly upon young persons, is for me impossible.

Superstition, and a strong belief in the traditionary legends that have been handed down to them by their forefathers, are yet general among the Highlanders: nor need that be matter of surprize or wonder, when it is recollected in what wild, romantic regions, remote from the haunts of society, they are reared; and that early impressions are with difficulty eradicated from the human mind, naturally prone as it is to credulity and a love of the marvellous. But whatever may be their weaknesses or superstitous prejudices, they are unquestionably a brave and honest race of people, decent in their behaviour, hospitable, courteous, and free from many of the vices but too prevalent among the same class of persons in what are termed the more civilized parts of the kingdom.—Of dancing the Highlanders are extremely fond; and having in general a correct ear, and activity in their motions, they dance with no little grace, and in the very best time. Their national instrument, the bagpipe, is still in general repute, and when well played is far from being so inharmonious and harsh-sounding an instrument as those who affect to despise every thing to be met with in their own country, or who have never heard a really good piper play, pretend to assert. During our stay at Inverness, we had an opportunity of hearing some Gaelic songs sung with infinite taste by a lady of our acquaintance; with which we were highly gratified, though ignorant of a single word of the language: but in that we only imitated our fashionable frequenters of the opera, who are ready to expire with ecstasy at the melodious sounds of an Italian squaller's affected and unnatural voice.—The district in which Tyndrum is situated is called Breadalbane. In some parts of it vast quantities of flax are spun into yarn: which is disposed of to persons

who travel at stated periods through the country; or at fairs held at Kenmore, a small town some miles distant from Tyndrum. The money circulated among the natives of these wild regions by that article, would appear but inconsiderable when compared with the immense sums disseminated in the lower parts of the country, where manufactures are numerous and population great: but small as it is, it proves of great importance, and the means of procuring many comforts to the industrious Highlanders, who are contented with a small portion of worldly wealth; and neither know nor long to partake of the luxuries that others of their countrymen now deem essential to their comfor. Thus in some situations "ignorance is bliss," and in many an extension of knowledge is by no means conducive to real happiness.—Though poor, they are always decently clad, as indeed the lower class of people in Scotland usually contrive to appear: and Sunday being yet held in the utmost respect by the generality of the natives, every person who can procure a change of apparel is on that day attired in his best; and in the country parishes in particular, divine service is attended with regularity and propriety of demeanor.—One great advantage to Scotland is the want of poors' rates; which in many parts of England are scandalously abused, and often prove a bar to industry, as well as a strong incentive to idleness. In the northern quarter of the island, a cottager would account it one of the heaviest misfortunes that could befal him or his family, to be reduced to live on charity; and I am confident from my early knowledge of their disposition and opinions, that such is their pride and independence of spirit, that they would suffer any evil rather than live under the disgrace of accepting alms. A few, and but a very few, who are old and destitute of every means of support, are relieved by the weekly contributions collected at the churches throughout the kingdom; and though the sum is trifling, it is always found adequate to the wants of those who require parochial aid. By being placed under the direction of the clergyman and elders (churchwardens) of each parish, it is always properly disposed of: which is not, I have many reasons for believing, the case with the poors' rates and other contributions in some parts of England; where insolent and rapacious churchwardens frequently make use of the sums entrusted to their care in the most improper manner, or distribute them rather according to their own views and inclinations than with strict and impartial justice.

On taking leave of Tyndrum, we entered into another vale (or *Strath* as is the usual term in all the Highland districts) called Strath-Fillan, in honour of a pious ecclesiastic who resided there in the eighth century, and who, according to vulgar tra-

dition, possessed the power of curing persons afflicted with insanity. Bounded on both sides by high green hills, this little valley produces tolerable pasture for sheep, and some patches of coarse grass intermixed with rushes, which is cut and saved for hay. A stream runs through the bottom, but the scenery upon its banks affords little interesting or agreeable. At a small inn near the ruins of a chapel dedicated to saint Fillan, we stopped to breakfast; and after our meal, which we preferred taking out of doors on a green bank close to the road-side, we visited the Holy Pool, in which the wretched maniacs whom superstition still causes to be carried thither are immersed; seldom, no doubt, to any other purpose than to terrify them into lasting madness, and gratify the folly of those who place belief in the virtues of the water. Of saint Fillan's piety and wondrous power, many instances have been handed down to posterity; and even the learned Boethius mentions, in his account of the battle of Bannockburn, the precious relic of the saint's body being displayed before the Scottish army; who, firmly impressed with the conviction of its virtues, and power to aid them in the hour of danger, marched on to meet their enemies, and ultimately proved victorious: but whether indebted for their success to their own bravery, the courage of their leader, or the power of saint Fillan's arm, I leave it to those to determine who are more inclined to investigate this kind of matters than I am. It appears however that Bruce either did, or affected to, credit the aid of the wonder-working arm; as he shortly afterwards erected a priory in the glen, and dedicated it to the saint to whom he was so greatly indebted.

Bidding adieu to saint Fillan and his valley, we pursued our road through a romantic glen, watered by a sweetly-winding river called the Dochart; by the side of which there is a most agreeable combination of pleasing objects,—of woods, water, hills, rocks, pasture, and corn lands, all contributing their share towards beautifying the landscape: to which must be added a few neat habitations, some very decent cottages, and the ruins of a castle seated on an island in the little loch, shaded by a few ancient trees, and forming a really picturesque and striking object.

This castle, now falling to decay, belonged in former times to the laird of Loch-Awe: who happening to be at variance with one of the Macgregors, it was wrested from him by his adversary; who took advantage of a severe frost, to erect a defence of turf and bushes for his followers, which he caused to be rolled before them on the ice till they were close to the walls of the castle, which they speedily scaled, and put to death the greatest number of those whom they found within it.—In approaching

Killen, we arrived in view of one of the most romantic scenes we had met with in the course of our journey, close to the little town; which, though one that in itself holds out nothing to attract the notice of a stranger, is most charmingly situated at the confluence of two rivers with Loch-Tay, across which there are two bridges from whence the prospect is inexpressibly beautiful and sublime. Huge shapeless rocks, piled in the strangest manner above each other, impede the current of the water; which pouring with impetuosity over their crooked points, or playing round their bases in a variety of pools and little cataracts, forms an indescribable picture of beauty and diversity.—From thence likewise are seen two neat islands near the head of the loch, prettily wooded; and on one of them is the burial ground of a clan of considerable repute. Being desirous of seeing Loch-Tay to the best advantage, and having weather charmingly adapted for an excursion by water, we sent our equipage forward to Kenmore, by the road upon the side of the loch, and, procuring a boat, proceeded thither ourselves by water.

Loch-Tay is nearly fifteen miles in length, and at the widest about two in breadth. Winding in an agreeable manner, it has more the appearance of a large river than a sheet of water: and its banks, though more varied, are not unlike those of Loch Ness; rising on both sides with considerable grandeur, and, on the northern in particular, displaying no small share of boldness and sublimity.

At the foot of the rugged heights of Finlang, are seen the remains of a castle, embosomed amidst a lofty grove of trees; and beyond these the tremendous steeps of Laurs, covered with almost perpetual snow, compose the most prominent features of the landscape. In general the mountains do not rise abruptly from the water's edge, as is the case at the other lochs I have described: in some parts corn-fields and swampy meadows range along the banks to a considerable distance, and a few scattered cottages tend to enliven the scene, though little can be said in praise of their appearance.—On the heights near Killen and indeed in all parts of Breadalbane, game of most kinds is in great abundance. That beautiful and delicious-flavoured bird the black cock, is there to be seen frequently; but it is shy, and difficult to shoot. Grouse are in plenty, and in winter woodcocks are also to be met with; and eagles breed in numbers among the loftiest of the crags.

The sun was set as we approached Kenmore, and the sable vest of evening had shrouded the tops of the distant hills: but the loch and nearest objects still displayed innumerable beauties; and a pretty little island, not far from the landing-place,

received additional charms from the deepened shades which twilight threw upon the ruins of a convent that peeped through the luxuriant foliage of a clump of trees overhanging the ancient walls. We found the inn, though not a small one, crowded with guests returning from, or pursuing their tour through, this much-frequented Highland district, so that it was with difficulty we procured apartments for the night; however, on the following morning many of the travellers departed, and during the remainder of our stay we had no cause to complain of inattention or indifferent fare.

From the church-yard, which was the first place we visited in the morning, there is a charming view of the loch and its adjacent mountains, a neat bridge thrown across the river Tay near where it issues from the loch, and many pleasing objects, which altogether form a most agreeable landscape. The church is neat, and was erected but a few years since; as indeed the greatest part of the town also was, which is yet but small, and contains little to recommend it to notice.

Having finished our breakfast at an early hour, we proceeded to the castle; which lies at a short distance from the town, and is the principal residence of the earl of Breadalbane. Being a place of which we had heard much, and chiefly in its praise, we were anxious to see its boasted beauties: but, as it is frequently the case when people are led to expect a great deal from any place or person, that they are disappointed, so were our hopes of beholding a second Inverary, crushed at once; when, pursuing the path from the gate towards the house, we perceived a large old-fashioned heavy-looking fabric, placed on a dead flat, surrounded by high and woody mountains, and shut out from even a single bird's-eye peep of the loch, the river, or any part of the most striking scenery in its vicinity. Nor did the interior of the building present any thing more elegant or tasteful than its outside led us to expect: in short, neither the house nor the grounds, though the latter are pretty extensive, are such as many travellers have represented them; and to us they appeared far inferior to many improvements we had seen, of which less had been said and written. Upon three sides of the park, hills covered with wood rise to a considerable height, *embellished* (as some would term it) by a few buildings, which doubtless have been expensive, but are certainly far from tasteful.—On the side next to the river and almost behind the house, there is a broad shady walk, which is pleasant enough; and on the opposite bank is a ride cut along the mountain's base, which is extensive, and unquestionably the chief beauty of Taymouth.—Being informed there were a hermitage and a water-fall deserving of our notice, though seldom visited by strangers, about a mile

from Kenmore, on the southern side of the loch, we determined upon seeing them; and accordingly, though the sun was very powerful, and before we had walked many miles that morning, we set out for the spot attended by a guide. After climing to the summit of a steep ascent, we arrived at the entrance of a dark and horribly dismal passage, almost entirely hid from observation by the surrounding woods: and constructed, it is presumed, to heighten the effect of the scene to be viewed from the small apartment at its extremity; which is suitably enough ornamented, the walls being covered with moss, shell, dried plants, &c. and having a couch and stools with skins of different wild animals. From the window the cascade is seen to great advantage; and it is really a very fine one, of about two hundred feet in height, in one unbroken sheet of water. To obtain however a still better view of it, we ventured down a steep and narrow path cut for the purpose in the side of the precipice; and on reaching a rude seat composed of a piece of rock, close to the edge of the dreadful chasm which time and the constant falling of the water have made, we were much struck with the grandeur of the scene, and pronounced a sight of it to be well worth all the trouble and even danger attending the descent. Prodigious high brown rocks, in awful majesty, and nearly in the segment of a circle, rose opposite to our seat; surmounted by variously formed trees, whose branches spreading far across the crags, almost united their foliage at the top of the rocky ledge over which the loud resounding cataract rushed "in one impetuous torrent down the steep" into the black abyss below, from whence again emerging,

> "Fast it falls from gradual slope to slope,
> With wild infracted course, and lessen'd roar;
> It gains a safer bed, and steals at last
> Along the mazes of the quiet vale,"

until it reaches the loch; of which, in sweet perspective, we had a glimpse through the umbrageous woods stretching along the valley, quiet and unruffled by the perious agitation of the numerous tributary streams that in various places increase its waters. Above our heads, huge rugged cliffs, tufted with many-coloured mosses, and shadowed by innumerable shrubs and trees of different kinds, rose to a considerable height; on one of which stands the apartment already-mentioned, no other trace of art appearing upon either hand to lessen or disfigure the sublimity and natural beauties of a scene well worth the trouble of climbing up the long and steep ascent to obtain a sight of.

As the day drew near its close, we again strolled out upon

the borders of the loch; and beheld the declining orb of day departing behind the mountains, with such enchanting radiance as neither pen can describe nor pencil ever truly copy: one moment brightening into the most glowing golden colour, then suddenly assuming a deeper yellow, it gradually changed to an uncommonly brilliant redness, and sinking from the sight, gave place to misty vapours and thick-gathering darkness, over the summits of the lofty mountains; while still the waters of the loch glittered with the remaining rays of light, stretching as far as the eye could reach, and forming a delightful picture of the charms of lovely nature in her pure and unadorned state. But short-lived and uncertain are the fairest prospects mortals are permitted to behold. The sun which had declined with so much brilliancy and beauty, arose not with the same refulgence on the following morn; when rain in torrents poured down from the heavy skies, and the wind "whistled along the heath" with hollow wintry moans. We were therefore under the necessity of remaining at Kenmore till the afternoon was pretty far advanced: when, having seen the horizon clear around us, and every appearance of fair weather coming on, we pursued our road along the south side of the Tay; and passing through a pleasant tract of cultivated country, adorned by several handsome seats, we reached the village of Inver, situated on the banks of the river opposite Dunkeld. Here having been recommended by a friend to take up our abode; instead of at the latter place, we remained for the night: but finding neither our accommodations nor fare at all such as we had been led to expect, we shifted our quarters in the morning after breakfast to the inn at Dunkeld; where, during our stay of nearly two days, we found no cause to regret the change we had made.

Having procured a person to accompany us round the grounds, our first object of curiosity was to see the walks of which we had heard so much, upon the opposite side of the Tay and along the banks of the river Bran. Having once more crossed the ferry, we entered a beautiful plantation through a broad and winding path, that conveyed us along the bank that overhangs the boisterous and impetuous Bran; which, rushing from the mountains in the upper district of the country, pours with rapidity over a rough and stony channel till it finds repose in the sweet-winding Tay at a short distance from Dunkeld. Most wonderfully sublime and wild in their appearance were the heights and cliffs that hung impending over the narrow glen at the other side of the river: in some parts bare, and strangely mingled together in shapeless odd disorder; in others clothed with woods of various kinds, whose different shades and colours added much to the beauty of the landscape, and were finely contrasted with the

proud projecting rocks, and the dark brown heath that here and there burst from the interstices of the craggs. Approaching the upper end of the walk, the glen becomes still more contracted; and the cliffs on both sides of the river seem almost to meet till a bridge erected between two high and rocky precipices unites them completely, and adds another feature to this picture of romantic and enchanting beauty. Beneath the arch the water pours along a deep-worn channel, foaming and raging from the agitation it has undergone in its descent down the tremendous precipice above: its rocky boundaries are scooped into numberless excavations by the action of the water, and fringed with trees whose drooping branches overhang the dark deep chasm in which the water boils with never-ceasing fury. A temple, plain in its exterior, and standing upon a rock directly opposite the fall, was opened for us by our guide; and a figure as large as life in a reclining posture, with a harp by his side, appeared before us, which we were told was meant to represent the son of Fingal: but scarcely had we taken a second glance, when suddenly the partition was drawn aside, and we were dazzled by the sight of an apartment elegantly and fancifully decorated, having a large bow-window down to the floor, from which we had a full view of the roaring cataract dashing over a ledge of rock, and throwing up the spray to an astonishing height; while in the gulph beneath, the water raged with inconceivable violence, and presented the wonder-struck spectator with mingled causes of surprize, terror, and delight. That the apartment just noticed is admirably calculated to command the finest view of the fall and its surrounding beauties, no person can deny: but in its decorations there is too much appearance of art, too great a portion of finery and glaring splendour, to render it suitable to the taste of most persons, and certainly by no means corresponding with the wild romantic scenery around; and were it less gaudily ornamented, the effect would be far superior, and the whole then form one of the completest scenes in the kingdom. Not that I deem the mirrors placed in the roof so absurd as many people assert they are; it is the profusion of gilding, and the general glare of the whole, that I dislike: yet, after all that can with justice be said in its disfavour, there is little to condemn, and much to admire, both in the situation and decorations of the apartment; and difficult indeed must they be to please, who can view that charming spot and leave it dissatisfied.

Returning by the same path which led us to the fall, we recrossed the Tay, and proceeded to view the spacious gardens and other improvements round Athol-house. The former we found extensive, and planned with judgment; the latter, beautiful and romantic in a high degree. The house is the object least worthy

of notice, of the whole: neither its exterior appearance nor interior decorations being at all extraordinary or elegant, nor its situation a good or well chosen one; for though in the vicinity of some of the most picturesque scenery in Scotland, the view is confined, dull, and not varied or agreeable.

The town is seated on an eminence on the north side of the Tay: encompassed by high and seemingly inaccessible mountains, on whose steep sides are plantations of almost incredible extent; which add another to the many proofs of their noble owner's taste, and strong desire to improve and beautify his native domains. Birnam-Hill, so celebrated by Shakspeare in his tragedy of Macbeth, was one of the many named to us by the person who attended us over the grounds; and like most others in the neighbourhood, it is lofty, rugged, and partly clothed with wood.

Dunkeld is a place of great antiquity, and once the capital of that part of Scotland denominated *Caledonia*. A monastery of Culdees was established in it, a short time subsequently to the introduction of christianity into the kingdom; and David I. converted it into a bishop's see anno 1130. Of the cathedral, once a most magnificent edifice, a part of the walls now only remain, the interior being mostly destroyed many years ago; and what was entire fitted up as a church, upon one side of which is the burial-place of the family of Athol. Its architecture has been simple, yet more than ordinarily elegant and tasteful; and the ruins near the duke's residence form, when viewed from this spot, a uncommonly beautiful and picturesque object, half-hid as they are by creeping ivy and a grove of tall majestic trees. A monument of one of the bishops of Dunkeld is ye tremaining in the southern aisle; and also that of an earl of Buchan, son to Robert II., whom I had formerly occasion to name in my account of Elgin, and best known by the appellation of "the wolf of Badenoch."

To the town and neighbourhood of Dunkeld many persons repair in the summer season to enjoy the salubrity of the pure mountain air, and the benefit of goat whey. One would indeed almost compound for a slight attack of illness, to be permitted to spend some time amidst such charming scenery. Delightful, however, as it was in our eyes, we were unable to pass another day among its wilds and rocky precipices; and once more setting out for Perth, we bade a last adieu to all that had so pleased and gratified us during our short stay at Dunkeld. Arriving in safety at our former quarters at the Salutation inn, we spent a part of the following day in Perth, and proceeded again to Stirling: whence we pursued our route to Lanark with as much expedition as possible, leaving our horses to follow us at leisure;

reaching us by the time we had gratified our curiosity with a view of the celebrated falls of the Clyde, and the various romantic scenes which the vicinity of Lanark holds out to the notice of a stranger.

CHAP. X.

LANARK.—FALLS OF THE CLYDE.—COTTON MANUFACTORIES.—CARTLAND CRAGS.—WALLACE-CAVE, &c. &c.—ROAD TO DOUGLASS MILL.—ELVAN-FOOT INN.—MOFFAT.—LOCKERBY.—HODDAM CASTLE.—TOWER OF REPENTANCE.—GRETNA GREEN.—SOLWAY MOSS.—LONGTOWN.—CARLISLE.—THENCE TO WIGTON.—IREBY.—BASSENTHWAITE-WATER.—CHARMING SCENERY.—KESWICK.—DERWENT-WATER.—ITS ISLANDS.—PICTURESQUE SCENERY.—BARROW CASCADE.—LOWDORE.—MUSEUM AT KESWICK.—SKIDDAW.—VIEW FROM THE HILL ABOVE KESWICK.—ROMANTIC VALLEY.—LEATHESWATER.—DUNMAIL RAISE.—HELME-CRAG.—GRASMERE VALE AND LAKE.—RYDAL-WATER.—FALLS AT RYDAL.—AMBLESIDE.—FALL ABOVE AMBLESIDE.—WINDERMERE.—KENDAL.—ITS CHURCH.—TOMB OF A VICAR.—REMAINS OF THE CASTLE.—COLUMN TO COMMEMORATE THE REVOLUTION.—MANUFACTURES, &c. &c.

LANARK, of which I am now about to say a few words, is one of the most ancient towns in Scotland; and is supposed to have been founded by the Romans, who had several camps and fortresses in its neighbourhood. In later times it was deemed of importance, and Kenneth II. held there the first parliament on record in North Britain. By Alexander I. it was erected into a royal burgh, and the charter was confirmed by several of his successors. It is now the county town; and is joined with Selkirk, Peebles, and Linlithgow, in the election of a representative to serve in parliament.

At Lanark, Wallace, the celebrated hero of the Scots, made his first effort to free his country from the yoke of England, by seizing upon the town and putting the governor to death. The castle, now in ruins, was built upon the site of a Roman station by David I., and at different periods was honoured by the presence of the Scottish monarchs. In it William the Lion granted his charter for erecting Ayr into a burgh. The town is governed by a provost, two baillies, and other magistrates; and the number of its inhabitants is estimated at about three thousand. In general, the buildings are of good appearance, and some even handsome: viz. the church, the town-house, and the

grammar-school; over which last is a library, bequeathed by a gentleman who contributed to the erection of the school, for the use of the inhabitants. The principal manufactures in Lanark and its vicinity are muslins, cottons, and stockings: a weekly market is abundantly supplied with provisions of all kinds; and the annual fairs, of which there are several, draw hither a considerable share of wealth. The principal inn is an excellent one; and strangers who go to see the falls of the Clyde, will find themselves comfortably lodged and entertained in it.

The first of these justly celebrated falls we visited, was that called Carra Lin, the most magnificent and awful of the three. Approaching it by a path cut in a steep acclivity clothed with trees, the water is seen to dash down a perpendicular descent of considerable height, and over some disjointed rocks, into a hollow worn depth: whence, with redoubled fury, it again soars up; and with equal rapidity rushes over another and much higher lodge, into a deep and dark abyss environed by terrific precipices, from whose almost-unseen crevices innumerable trees and bushes shoot forth, and seem to kiss the roaring torrent as it falls at every movement which the passing breezes give to their long and drooping branches, while the perpetual dew that hangs on their luxuriant foliage lends them a beautiful and brilliant freshness impossible to be described or equalled by the nicest artist's pencil. On the summit of a rock embosomed in woods of various shades, stand the remains of Carra-Castle; which is said to shake on its foundation when violent storms increase the torrent's fury, and cause it to sound still louder through the adjacent groves. After feasting our eyes with a long-protracted ruin of this magnificent spectacle, we proceeded onwards along the side of a steep bank impending over the river: and passing through groves of tall trees, reached the top of a promontory high above the Clyde; when suddenly our senses were enraptured with the prospect of a grand cascade tumbling with astonishing impetuosity over a lofty precipice, bounded by prodigious cliffs, shagged with wood, and displaying a scene not so sublimely grand as that at Carra-Lin, but not less picturesque and interesting to the beholder. This is called the Bonnington-fall, and is near a charming seat belonging to the widow of the late gallant admiral sir John Lockhart Ross. Returning by the same path for a part of the way, we struck off into one which leads through the woods by the side of the river, to the extensive cotton-works established by the truly patriotic Mr. Dale; whose exertions to promote the prosperity, and increase the comforts, of the inhabitants of that part of the country, are visible to even the most unenlightened and careless observer. The situation of the buildings is singularly

romantic. They are almost encompassed by lofty heights, which shelter them from the rough blasts of winter, and screen them from view till the traveller is almost close to them: when, as if by magic art, an immense pile tastefully constructed appears before the eye; where, besides the men and women employed in the works, between four and five hundred children are lodged, fed, and educated, and reared in a manner far surpassing any other institution of the same nature I ever heard of in Britain. In the village close to the works, above fifteen hundred persons reside; besides which number, many more are employed in the neighbourhood as pickers, spinners, and weavers of cotton: and for several miles round, the general appearance of the country manifests the beneficial effects of Mr. Dale's most laudable and generous undertaking.

Returning to Lanark, we stopped a short time at the inn to rest from the fatigue of our excursion; and then proceeded lower down the river to view another fall, which we found to be little less worthy of a visit than those we had already seen. This truly beautiful cataract is called Stonebyres. It is divided into three distinct falls: each of them rushing with increasing violence into a deep and dreary chasm, and sending forth a noise as loud as thunder; while all around the scene is beautifully picturesque, and the combination of woods, rocks, and foaming waters, forms a picture of inexpressible magnificence and grandeur. An infinite variety of shrubs and different-coloured mosses grow upon the rugged banks on each side of this tremendous fall; and complete the beauty of the scene, from which even the rain that had begun to descend in torrents from the skies could scarcely force us to depart.—But these are not the only beauties the neighbourhood of Lanark has to boast of, though they are those most generally visited by strangers. The views upon the river Mouse, are many of them highly deserving of a visit: particularly Cartland Crags, about a mile from the town; where a range of rocky precipices, some of them three hundred feet in height, bound one of the most romantic glens that nature ever formed; extending about half a mile in length, and exhibiting a succession of the most picturesque scenery it is possible to conceive. In this sequestered spot, embosomed amidst thick woods, where scarcely a mark of human feet is yet perceptible, in a chasm still known by the name of Wallace-cave, that gallant and unfortunate young man sought shelter from his merciless pursuers, till cruelly betrayed by his "familiar friend" the faithless John Monteith: who, corrupted by the reward offered by the English, basely and treacherously discovered his retreat; from which he was dragged to London, and by command of

Edward hanged and quartered like a common malefactor. Poor Wallace! thy bravery and patriotism merited a better fate.

Having viewed all that was deemed most worthy of observation in the environs of Lanark, we once more set out on our return to England; and from the time we had left the Clyde a few miles behind us, we beheld on every side only a wild and cheerless district, where almost every object seemed to share in the general dreariness and desolation. At Douglas-mill inn, on the great road leading from Carlisle to Glasgow, we stopped to rest our horses: but still all was bleak and disagreeable. Yet, wild and uninteresting as the scenery there was, it was far outdone by the still more dismal wilderness for the space of ten miles further, to the wretched habitation called an inn, at Elvan-foot; a second Moss-paul in every respect, with the addition of uncivil people in the house. Here, unacquainted with its miserable state, we had determined upon passing the night: but a slight view of the place put all our former resolutions to flight; and though very unwilling to pursue our journey so far as to the next stage at so late an hour in the afternoon, there was no alternative. Accordingly we proceeded as soon as possible upon the way to Moffat, where we arrived sometime after it was dark. Here too, as if fortune was determined still to prosecute us, we could with difficulty procure most wretched accommodations for the night: the inns and every lodging-house in the town being full of travellers and persons stationary here upon account of the waters; the virtues of which have long been held in high estimation in scrophulous and scorbutic disorders, and supposed to be little inferior to those of Harrowgate in Yorkshire.

Moffat is now increasing much in size and opulence, in consequence of its being frequented by strangers; and it wears a flourishing and cheerful appearance. The country in its immediate vicinity is pleasing and fertile; and the ride hence to Lockerby, through a part of Annandale, is picturesque, and agreeably diversified.

Lockerby is a village of no importance whatsoever: it has an indifferent inn, and not a single building in it of any consequence. We there, however, as it was late when we quitted Moffat, remained during a night; and then proceeded to Ecclesfechan, another long straggling village, towards the long-famed Gretna-Green. We passed not far from Hoddam-castle, built by lord Harries; and at some distance further observed upon the summit of a hill a large square building called "the Tower of repentance," erected by that nobleman as an atonement for his

barbarity in putting to death some prisoners to whom he had promised liberty.

At Gretna-green we stopped to breakfast; and as an object of curiosity, procured an interview with the man who still continues to unite so many giddy mortals who afterwards prove sources of mutual chagrin and misery to each other. His appearance, far from impressing us with a favourable opinion of his morals or his manners, disgusted us in a very high degree; and we gladly presented him with the reward he usually gets for coming to the inn to be stared at, viz. a potion of strong liquors, and left him to pursue his avocations as best suited his inclinations. He is not, nor ever was, a blacksmith.—Not far from Gretna lies the Solway-moss: which in 1771 burst from its bounds, and moved to a considerable distance in consequence of the excessive swelling of some neighbouring rivers. This forced the moss, with some springs beneath its surface, down a narrow glen, between two banks of considerable height; whence it continued to flow for many hours without the smallest intermission, the ground being entirely covered with it to the depth of fifteen feet. Fortunately no lives were lost; though many houses were destroyed, and much corn and cattle swept away: a wonderful circumstance, considering that the inundation commenced during the night, and the confusion that must naturally have arisen upon such a terrifying occasion.

From Gretna to Longtown the country wears an indifferent aspect, though some of the distant views are pleasing and interesting. Of Longtown and Carlisle I have already said so much, that little is left for me to add upon the subject: I shall therefore carry my reader forward at once to Wigton, a town of ancient date and tolerable appearance; and thence to Ireby (once a place of some consequence, but now a poor decaying village), seated on an eminence, commanding an extensive prospect of the circumjacent hills and valleys. Arriving at the summit of a hill about two miles beyond, a charming view of Bassenthwaite-water bursts suddenly upon the sight: and presents a glorious prospect, which amply compensates for the jolts and bruises a traveller must undergo upon the road from Wigton to Ireby; one of the most unpleasant, rough, and disagreeable roads in the kingdom, and only about two miles shorter to Keswick from Carlisle than by Penrith.

This pretty lake, known by the name of Bassenthwaite-water, we at length reached, after passing over some steep and barren hills; and on a nearer view were much pleased with the scenery on its banks, which is altogether highly picturesque and varied. It is four miles long and about one in breadth; and is bounded on

one side by a part of Skiddow and some lofty hills; and on the other by a range of woody heights, sweetly broken into numerous little creeks and promontories, and backed by mountains of various shapes and hues, reaching almost to the clouds. On its banks are some verdant fields, fringed with wood, beneath whose boughs the crystal lake is often caught in the most picturesque manner as it stretches up the valley towards Whitehaven. Passing round the base of Skiddow, our road continued to wind along the side of the lake; at the lower extremity of which is a gentleman's seat, delightfully situated in one of the sweetest spots it is possible to form an idea of. At length we approached the enchanting vale of Keswick: in which, but not commanding a view of the Derwent-water, stands the town; a small neat place consisting of one long street, but not containing any buildings remarkable for beauty or elegance, though in point of cleanliness and neat exterior they may vie with any in the kingdom. As it was evening before we reached the Queen's-head, an excellent inn in Keswick, we saw but little of the surrounding scenery till the following day: which, fortunately for us, proved an uncommonly fine one; though a heavy rain, accompanied by the most awful peals of thunder, had fallen during the night. But as good sometimes arises from evil, so it fared with us on this occasion; and the wet which at first appeared to promise us nothing but inconvenience, and perhaps detention within doors the whole ensuing day, proved of the highest advantage to the general appearance of the surrounding country, and in particular to the falls of water we purposed to visit in the course of our rambles in the environs of Keswick. Having hired a boat to carry us round the lake, we set out immediately after breakfast on our excursion, and spent some hours upon the water in the most agreeable manner; for though the Derwent is not so large as many pieces of water I have already had occasion to mention, it is one of the most interesting I have ever seen. So numerous are the accounts already published of the lakes in the northern counties of England, and so truly beautiful many of the delineations of the scenery round their banks, that little is left for an humble gleaner like myself to pick up and present my readers with upon the subject: but lest it should be supposed I am either careless of their favour or indifferent to their gratification, I shall briefly sketch a few of the principal features of the landscapes as these appeared to me at the time I had the satisfaction of beholding them; leaving it to those so much more capable than I can pretend to be, to give a fuller description of the many charming scenes to be seen in Cumberland, Westmoreland, and the northern parts of Lancashire.—I shall therefore, without further preface or apology, inform those who may honour

my Wanderings with a perusal, that the lake called Derwent-water is in length about three miles, and in width nearly two; so that its form, as well as its surrounding scenery, is different from those I have mentioned in the foregoing chapters. Clear and transparent as a mirror, it is diversified by several islands beautifully decorated with trees, or clothed with verdure; rising in various forms and extent above its glassy surface, to be again reflected in the sweetest manner possible in its bright expanse. On one of these is a modern habitation, with a number of ornamental appendages, walks, shrubberies, &c. jumbled together in the space of a very few acres, and by no means suited to the general features of the landscape. Upon another are the remains of a cell inhabited by St. Herbert of holy memory; who prayed (and, as the story goes, obtained his request) to be permitted to resign his breath at the same moment with his friend St. Cuthbert. On every side of this enchanting lake the views are inexpressibly romantic, beautiful, and awfully grand; and the entrance into a deep and dismal valley called Borrowdale, is beyond conception terrific and astonishing. Rocks piled on rocks soar high above each other's head, frowning in gloomy majesty over the narrow and horrible recess that forms the passage into that black and frightful chasm; while on the northern end, a smiling plain, adorned by neat and numerous habitations, green meadows, woods, gentle eminences, churches, and the sweetly situated town of Keswick, is backed by the high and proudly-soaring Skiddow, the lofty Saddleback, and Threkeld-fell. Vast ranges of mountains, covered with a sort of verdure, bound the view upon the western side: and on the opposite a bold steep rocky chain of precipices rise almost directly from the water's edge, forming themselves into a variety of wonderful and fantastic shapes, in some parts clothed with wood; and in all displaying a most striking feature of the astonishing works of nature. Upon one of the loftiest of these towering crags, eagles breed in prodigious numbers: and, dangerous as the undertaking is, the neighbouring shepherds let themselves down from the highest cliffs by a rope; and, in spite of the fierce attacks of the parents, rob them of as many of their young as they can reach, in order to prevent as much as possible the depredations the eagles commit upon their flocks in the breeding season, when they frequently make great devastation among the lambs.

Near these precipices is a fall of water, in a wood behind a mansion appertaining to the same gentleman, who has erected the buildings already noticed on one of the islands; that having heard much in praise of, we landed and went up to visit. A winding path cut in the steep acclivity soon carried us within view of the fall; which, when seen from below, appears extremely

picturesque; and being situated amidst a variety of odd-shaped moss-clad precipices, forms altogether an uncommonly romantic picture. Proceeding still higher up the mountain, we reached an alcove seated on the summit of a lofty and projecting rock, from which we had a charming view of the lake and its most lovely scenery. Here we for some time feasted our delighted eyes with the sight of the glorious landscape: then descending from our aerial station, took another look *en passant* at the roaring torrent; and returning to the borders of the lake, pursued our way to the next fall at Lowdore, a short distance from the former. At this place we again beheld a foaming cataract, picturesque and even grand in its descent; but far inferior to some of those which we had so lately visited, and even less beautiful than that we so lately quitted. Re-embarking on board our boat, we rowed a considerable time along the shores of this most interesting lake, and paused a little to admire the sweet sequestered retreat belonging to lord William Gordon on the western borders; a spot so picturesque, so simply yet so tastefully adorned, that it may justly be accounted one of the most enchanting summer retirements in the kingdom.

Returning to the town we had an early dinner, and afterwards paid a visit to Crossthwaite's museum: in which, among a good deal of trash, are several really curious natural productions, a variety of optical glasses, maps, prints, coins, and Eolian harps; which latter he makes and sells at the very low rate of five shillings each, and disposes of some hundreds every season to strangers who visit the Lakes.

Among those who visit Kenwick in the course of their tour, some few ascend the lofty heights of Skiddar: but we were not of the number; its summit, we were well aware, being too frequently enveloped in misty vapour to admit of our seeing to any considerable distance, and the labour and fatigue of the ascent (as we were informed) prodigious. The lake abounds with fish of various kinds; such as perch, eels, trout, and pike: and is often agitated without the least apparent cause, as likewise visited by frequent squalls of wind, so that it is dangerous for a sailing-boat to venture upon it; but in a row-boat nothing can be more delightful than an excursion on its beautiful surface. In winter it freezes very hard; and we are told of a gentleman who a few years since had the temerity to drive himself and his lady in an open carriage across upon the ice, in the presence of a crowd of spectators, who doubtless expected every instant to see him pay the forfeit of his rashness: he passed over, however, without accident; but it is to be hoped no one will again venture on an undertaking so replete with danger, and to such very little purpose.

On leaving Keswick we ascended a steep and long hill, from the top of which there is one of the most magnificent views imagination can conceive; such a view indeed as it would be almost impossible to resist taking a farewell look of, were there even a punishment similar to that of Lot's wife awaiting the gratification of our curiosity. Beneath, the lake expands amidst the splendid amphitheatre of mountains; transparent as crystal, and reflecting back the varied hues and surrounding woods, the islands, and the rugged summits of the precipices, that overhang its banks. Beyond the plain, rich, fertile, and embellished with numberless pleasing objects, the charming lake of Bassenthwaite, divided from its neighbour by only a narrow neck of land, appears in all its native loveliness and beauty: while to the south the black terrific crags that guard the entrance into Borrowdale, rise in awful grandeur; and on the eastern shore high ranges of green hills in many different shapes, complete a scene which for magnificence united with simplicity and rural softness, can scarcely be equalled in the world. Thence the road descends into a wild romantic valley, confined by barren and stupendous mountains; few spots of cultivated ground appearing in our sight till we have travelled several miles, and nearly reached the extremity. Then, on the opposite banks of a long narrow lake, called Schirlmere or Leather-water, by which we pursued our way, we observed some tolerably pleasant meadows and green enclosures, unadorned however either by wood or hedges. On our left arose the tremendous steep called Helvellyn, the loftiest mountain in Cumberland, whose darkly-frowning precipices hang as it were impending over the road which winds along its base: while countless torrents pour down its steep and rugged side, rushing with rapidity towards the lake; which tranquilly stretches along its narrow bed, and though little ornamented with wood, forms a considerable addition to the landscape.

Ascending next a steep called Dunmail-Baise, our thoughts reverted to former ages, by recollecting that on the spot on which we then were passing the last king of Cumberland was defeated by prince Edmund. The victor, with the barbarity so common in those and even later times, put out the eyes of the fallen monarch's sons; and laying waste his territories, bestowed them afterwards upon Malcolm king of Scotland, who on his part did homage for the gift. Some stones are yet to be seen which have been placed there to commemorate the battle, and the same spot also forms the boundary betwixt Cumberland and Westmoreland. On the right of it is an immense pyramidal-shaped mountain, named Helme-crag; whose broken and jagged summit produces a singular effect, and at a very small distance resembles an ancient

ruin. Arriving at the top of the hill, our attention was instantly caught by the sweet view which just then opened before us. It extended over the delightful little vale of Grasmere; adorned by its enchanting lake, spreading its waters into a broad bason indented into various little bays; and decorated with a small island, near the centre of which a shepherd's hut peeps from among some low and tufted trees. The banks on every side presented almost the finest assemblage of verdant meadows, fields of corn, groves, hedges, and the picturesquely situated village of Grasmere, seated on a low promontory with the church and a few lofty trees near it, that the eye of mortal ever witnessed. Around this lovely vale, an amphitheatre of bold and cloud-capt mountains rear their rugged fronts, and form a noble contrast to the soft and rural scenery in the plain; seeming as if designed by nature to shut out the world and all its "busy maddening crowds," from a spot where "all is peace, rusticity, and happy poverty in its neatest and most becoming attire."

From Grasmere vale the road winds over a high and rather steep ascent, covered with wood, intermixed with rocks and frightful precipices: and following the course of the river that issues from the lake, again descends into a deeper and more contracted valley, bounded by enormous mountains, and adorned by a pretty little lake called Rydal-water; in which is a small island ornamented by a grove of firs, whose deep green shade is well contrasted with the greyish rock that tower immediately behind them. Though shallow, and only a lake in miniature, Rydal-water is a very pleasing object in the landscape, and adds much to the beauty of the valley; which without it would be awful, but by no means so agreeable or interesting. A little further onwards we arrived in view of Rydal-hall, the residence of sir Michael Le Fleming: seated upon an eminence amidst extensive woods, and backed by rocky and gigantic mountains; on the side of which we were told there were some celebrated waterfals, which we determined upon visiting, though it must be owned that our curiosity respecting such sort of scenery was beginning to be pretty well gratified. We however stopped the carriage at a little distance from the hall: and procuring a conductress from a neighbouring cottage, began our walk up the steep path that leads to the highest of the cascades; which at length conducted us to the margin of the stream, that rushes violently down the steep-worn channel, till it finds repose from all its agitations in the lake of Windermere, which commences nigh the wood and almost in front of Ryder-hall. For some time before we reached the loud-resounding cataract, its mighty noise thundering amidst the surrounding cliffs and mountains announced it

to be at no great distance; and at length we saw its foaming flood pouring over a prodigious and unbroken ledge of rock into a yawning gulf, dashing its spray aloft in air, and roaring with a tremendous and distracting noise. The banks on each side are high, and beautifully clothed with trees: and nature has not been disfigured and tortured to render her charms more lovely, more enchanting; a path along the edge of the precipice, and the erection of a rustic seat for convenience and rest, being the only marks of art displayed around this truly romantic spot. Would it were possible to say the same of the lower fall at Rydal! to which we likewise paid a visit on descending again near the house. To this we were led by a dark gloomy path overhung by spreading firs; and introduced into what is called a summer-house, but in reality a damp and ugly dungeon; from the window of which is seen another roaring torrent, less high and furious than the one above, but most romantically adorned by the lavish hand of nature with craggy banks and trees of various sorts, whose long and waving branches shoot forth widely from their stems, and form at top a canopy which no human art could have so happily and tastefully arranged. The effect of the whole however is greatly injured, and almost totally destroyed, by the horrid hut they call the summer-house: into which we no sooner enter, than the apprehension of catching our death by cold predominates over every other consideration; and before there is half leisure to survey the grandeur of the scenery outside, we are prompted to quit the dreary cell, where the chilling air and vile unwholesome smell destroy every wish except that of getting away, and that the torrent would rise high enough to sweep it totally off.

With hasty steps we left the dreary spot; and re-entering the carriage, proceeded to the banks of Windermer. For the remainder of that day and the next, we took up our abode at Ambleside: an ancient town now dwindled into a little village, situated on the side of the lake not far from its upper extremity; and backed by high hills clothed with a scanty portion of grass and an intermixture of woods and rocks, which together form a most unpleasant termination to the prospect.

Winandermere, or Windermere (as it is usually pronounced), is a sheet of water twelve miles in length, and from one to two in breadth; with several islands in a cluster near its southern extremity, and bounded by ranges of hills, some clothed with wood, and others (less lofty, and receding further from the lake) cultivated to the top. It thus exhibits a great diversity of landscapes, but little of that grand and awful scenery that peculiarly marks the features of the boundaries of Derwent-water: nor is the sheet of water, though larger,

by any means so beautiful; the island having too much the appearance of art to be truly pleasing, and the whole bearing too strong a resemblance to a great river to be very striking to the eye. The scenery at the upper end of the lake is certainly extremely magnificent, and is the only part where its boundaries assume a bold and Alpine-like appearance. The lake abounds with trout, pike, perch, and char; and great numbers of wild fowl breed upon its banks. Some very pleasing seats are likewise to be seen upon its sides, and the neighbourhood of Ambleside is populous and genteel. Land is let at an enormous price in the vicinity of the lake, labourers' wages are extravagantly high, and fuel is scarce and very dear.

From the time when the traveller loses sight of Windermere, till he reaches the environs of Kendal, there is nothing either pleasing or cheerful in the prospect of the surrounding country. Hills, as bleak and barren as it is possible to conceive, succeed each other for more than ten miles of the way; and even round the town of Kendal, though the heights are cultivated to the summits, the scarcity of wood, and the prevalence of bare stone enclosures, afford but little of the beautiful or picturesque to the admirer of soft and rural scenery.

The town of Kendal, situated on the river Ken, is a large populous place; where the manufactures of coarse woollen cloths and stockings, stuffs, &c. are extensively carried on, and accounted to be in a very prosperous state. By queen Elizabeth it was erected into a corporation; and her successor granted it greater privileges, with permission to elect a mayor, &c. by whom the police of the town is regulated. The church is a Gothic structure of good appearance, and contains some handsome ancient monuments. On the tombstone of a vicar who died in 1627, is the following curious inscription; composed by himself, for the purpose of being placed there:

London bredd me, Westminster fedd me,
Cambridge spedd me, my sister wedd me.
Study taught me, Kendal caught me,
Labour pressed me, Sickness distressed me,
Death oppressed me, and grave possessed me.
God first gave me, Christ did save me,
Earth did crave me, and heaven would have me.

On a hill to the southward of the town, the remains of the castle are yet standing, but neither its extent nor its beauty has ever been remarkable. It was once in possession of the family of Parr; and was the birth-place of Catharine, consort to Henry VIII. A number of coins and antiquities have been at different times discovered in the environs of Kendal:

and from the vestiges of some monuments still to be seen, it is supposed the Romans had a station there; and had erected them in memory of those who fell in an engagement with the Picts and Scots, when several British chiefs were slain and taken prisoners. On an artificial mount above the town, is an obelisk erected to commemorate the glorious event of the Revolution; on which is the following inscription:

Sacred to Liberty.
This Obelisk
was erected in the year 1788,
In memory of
The Revolution in 1688.

There is a good weekly market at Kendal, and some annual fairs; but none of its public buildings are worthy of notice, and even few of the private houses wear a genteel appearance.

CHAP. XI.

ROAD TO BURTON.—FARLTON KNOT; OR THE RESEMBLANCE, AS IT IS CALLED, OF THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR.—BURTON.—LANCASTER.—THE CASTLE.—THE CHURCH.—PUBLIC EDIFICES, &c. &c.—GARSTANG.—PRESTON.—THE JUBILEE, &c.—CHORLEY.—BOLTON.—MANCHESTER.—ITS HISTORY, &c.—LANCASHIRE.—ALTRINGHAM.—NORTHWICH.—CHESTER.—ITS HISTORY, SITUATION, &c.—THE CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL, &c.—CHESHIRE.—RIVER DEE.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—ROAD TO MOLD.—THE MOLD.—THE TOWN.—FLINTSHIRE.—BUTHIN.—VALE OF CLYWOT.—BRIDGE OF BUTHIN.—RUINS OF THE CASTLE.—THE CHURCH.—NEW JAIL, &c.—ROAD TO LLANGHOLM.—VALLE-CRUCIS ABBEY.—ITS SITUATION, HISTORY, &c.—PICTURESQUE SCENERY.—RIVER DEE.—LLANGOLLEN.—THE CELEBRATED VALE.—CASTEL DINAS BRAN.—CHIRK CASTLE.—VALE OF CERIOGE.—AQUEDUCTS.—OSWESTRY.—ITS HISTORY.—ARRIVAL AT SHREWSBURY, &c.

CONTINUING our route from Kendal to Burton in Lancashire, through a tolerably pleasant country, we passed upon our left a large bare limestone-rock, called Farlton-knot, resembling (it is said) the famous rock of Gibraltar: of this point however we could form no further judgment than from having seen a model of the latter, allowed to be a most exact one, cut in cork; to which the huge mass above-mentioned has no little similarity.

Burton is a neat, clean, little town; but of no note, either

for its manufactures or handsome edifices —Thence to Lancaster the country is thickly inhabited, and in a state of high cultiv ation in many parts. The latter town is a very ancient, popu'ous, and flourishing place; seated on an eminence above the river Lane, which admits of vessels of tolerable burden, and has across it a very handsome stone bridge of five arches.—Upon a height at one end of the town stands the castle, one of the finest old buildings in the kingdom; which, having lately undergone a thorough repair, and been entirely cased over with cut stone, now forms a strikingly majestic appearance. The front consists of a superb arched gateway, with overhanging battlements; and an immense large heavy gate, opening into a court wherein is the county prison. Thence the walls continue round a considerable way, till they unite with a square tower of great height; and a little farther on with another of the same shape, but of smaller dimensions. In these are held the assize courts; and they are well adapted for that purpose, being in an open airy situation, and close to the county jail.

On two sides of the castle is a broad walk defended by a parapet, on which the citizens often walk to inhale the refreshing breezes wafted hither from the sea; while they likewise enjoy the view of an extensive tract of country, a part of the Lancashire coast, the heights of Furness, Peel-castle, and a vast variety of interesting and agreeable objects.

At what time Lancaster-castle was founded, is unknown; but we hear of Adrian's causing it to be fortified A. D. 124, and afterwards it was enlarged and ornamented by Constantine Chlorus: since which period it has undergone a variety of changes; and was considerably improved by John of Gaunt, who erected on the top of the edifice a tower of great strength, still known by the name of "John of Gaunt's chair."

The church is a spacious Gothic structure with an extremely handsome tower, and is altogether of a good appearance. The streets are irregular, and the old part of the town is ill-built and dirty; but the more modern parts contain a number of genteel and fashionable houses, with a handsome town-hall, custom-house, &c. all tastefully and properly ornamented. The manufactures carried on in Lancaster are woollen cloths, cottons, &c. and these are said to be in a very flourishing state. It has several large inns, a neat theatre, and spacious ball-rooms; and its markets are well supplied with all sorts of provisions, foreign fruits, and other delicacies. By king John it was erected into a burgh; and permitted to be governed by a mayor, recorder, aldermen, &c. Its representatives are chosen by the freemen at large.

Of Garstang nothing can be said in its praise; it being a mean dirty little place, unworthy of a moment's notice. Thence to Preston, the views on each side, though extensive, are not peculiarly interesting: nor has that town much to boast of in point of grandeur or magnificence, though much improved of late years since it became the seat of manufactures; which are now, particularly the cotton, carried on to considerable extent. It is seated on the banks of the Ribble, which is navigable for small vessels to the town. The church is a stately structure, with a handsome tower. In Preston are held the courts of chancery for the county palatine of Lancaster. It was incorporated in the reign of Henry II., and is governed by a mayor, &c. The most extraordinary circumstance relating to its charter, is its being held upon condition of having a grand jubilee every twentieth year: which commences in the end of August, and continues a month; during which time persons of all ranks and from all quarters resort thither, and amusements of various kinds are kept up with great spirit. The last jubilee, in 1802, was splendid, and attended by immense crowds of strangers. It is a whimsical sort of tenure, and one not calculated to improve the morals or better the circumstances of a great proportion of the inhabitants; who during that time consider themselves privileged to enter into every species of dissipation, as far as their means will admit. To a few individuals it may probably be of some service; but to the bulk of the inhabitants it must be a real injury, and fortunately for them it is not oftener repeated.

From Preston to Chorley the country is very far from being pleasant in its appearance, nor has that little town any thing to boast of in the way of elegance or grandeur. There is however a very good inn in the place,—which is more than can be said of Bolton; a tolerably large town, in which there are some cotton manufactories, and in the environs extensive bleacheries, but not a single view that can in the least afford gratification to an admirer of picturesque scenery. Of Manchester I need say but little; its extent, population, wealth, and flourishing manufactures, being too well known in all parts of the empire to require a minute detail. I shall therefore confine my observations within a very narrow compass, relating to its history and buildings: of the latter of which I can only say there are a few tolerably handsome public edifices, and a number of large and apparently well-built private dwellings; and in respect to the former, that it was in the time of the Romans called *Macunium,* or "the place of tents," and that in its environs are vestiges of forts and camps supposed to have been erected by Severus. Though large and opulent, it does not send any

representative to parliament; and is a manor, governed by baron and court leets. There are three weekly markets, and the police of the town is conducted with great regularity.

In the time of the Romans, Lancashire was a part of the territory belonging to the *Brigantes;* and during the heptarchy it was under the dominion of the Northumbrian monarchs. By Edward III. it was made a county palatine, and given to his son John of Gaunt; on whom it bestowed the title of duke, which continued to be enjoyed by one of the blood-royal till the union of the long-contending houses of York and Lancaster. The climate of Lancashire is in some parts rather unhealthy, particularly where the ground is flat and marshy; but the higher parts, and those farthest from the sea, are accounted wholesome and agreeable. At Hawkshead, a small town in the northern district, the learned and pious Edward Sandys was born; and to this day the place is indebted to him for an excellent free-school. In the reign of Edward VI. he was promoted to several valuable benefices; but warmly espousing the party of lady Jane Gray, he was committed to the Tower, where he was detained some time in close confinement. At length, liberty being restored to him, he retired to the continent, and remained abroad till the accession of Elizabeth; who at his return bestowed on him the bishopric of Worcester, and finally the see of York, in the cathedral of which city there is a handsome monument erected to his memory.

From Manchester we proceeded to Altringham, a neat small town on the borders of Cheshire, where we breakfasted. From this place we pursued our way to Northwich, famous for its salt-works: and thence to the ancient, large, populous, and strange-built city of Chester; a place that in the time of the Romans was considered of very great importance by them, and on their departure was seized upon by the king of Mercia, whose successors retained possession of it till the kingdom became united under one government. In the tenth century Edgar kept his court at Chester: and here received the homage of the king of Scotland, the king of Man, the prince of Northumberland, and all the Welsh princes; who, to give a more convincing proof of their loyalty than ordinary, rowed his barge, drest in the style of boatmen, on the river Dee, in presence of many thousand spectators whom the novelty of the sight had drawn together. By the kings of Northumberland and by the Danes, Chester was frequently ravaged, and on some occasions nearly destroyed; but it constantly recovered from its distressful situation, and at present is in a very flourishing state. It is surrounded by lofty walls, on the top of which there is a broad walk extending quite round the city. Its four principal streets unite in

the centre. The construction of the houses in most of these is singular; but heavy, gloomy, and inconvenient in some respects; there being long piazzas in front of them called *Rows*, upon a level with the first-floor, in which are many elegant shops furnished with every article of necessity or luxury; but these are in general dark, and by no means calculated for the benefit of the purchaser, or the display of the goods they contain. In these rows people walk in all weathers without the least risk of wet, and at certain distances can descend into the streets by means of flights of steps. Till the dissolution of religious houses, Chester had a rich abbey; but at that period it was suppressed, and by letters patent from the king converted into a bishop's see, which it still continues. The cathedral is a spacious structure, but not particularly handsome: near it are the residences of the bishop and dignitaries; who live in a retired manner, and share but little in the gaieties which usually prevail among the bulk of the inhabitants. The castle is an ancient and spacious fabric; begun to be built by the Romans, and finished by the first earl of Chester soon after the Conquest. It has been repaired within these few years; and has a governor, lieutenant-governor, &c. The town-house and Exchange are both handsome buildings, and some of the churches are far from being inelegant. From Henry III., the city received its charter of incorporation; and besides being a county of itself, enjoys a number of privileges. It has two excellent weekly markets: besides a great annual fair which lasts a week, and draws to Chester crowds of strangers from all parts of the kingdom; as well as hundreds of Irish linen-dealers, who there dispose of their commodities and receive commissions for a future time of sale.

Cheshire was by the Saxons called *Cestreseyre;* and when invaded by the Romans, was inhabited by the *Cornavii*. In the ninth century the Danes laid waste a great proportion of its fairest plains, and were driven from thence by Alfred; who consigned it to the care of Ethelred, a chief of Mercia. By William the Conqueror it was bestowed on Hugh Lupus, his nephew: whom he created earl of Chester, with the privilege to him and his heirs for ever, to hold and exercise authority over the lives and properties of the inhabitants; which was the nature of all county-palatine laws, or (as they sometimes are termed) regalities. In Germany there are still such; but in Britain only Chester, Durham, and Lancaster. The two latter have courts of chancery, and the former an exchequer; but in all other respects they are subject to the laws of the realm, as in other countries. The greater part of Cheshire is healthful, rich, fertile, and finely diversified; and it is famous for cheese and salt

of the best kinds. The river Dee, which washes the walk of Chester, rises not far from Bala in Merionethshire; and after a long course through a wild romantic country, falls into the sea not many miles from the city.

Sir Thomas Aston, whose loyalty and bravery have been often mentioned in an honourable manner, was a native of Cheshire, and born in 1610. At an early period in life he gave strong proofs of attachment to the king, who in return created him a baronet; and when his standard was erected at Nottingham, sir Thomas raised a troop of horse for his service, which were afterwards defeated and their gallant leader wounded. Continuing still his exertions in the royal cause, he was taken prisoner in a skirmish with the enemy and carried to Stafford; in which place, while endeavouring to effect his escape, he received a wound which, added to his other misfortunes, brought on a fever which carried him off in the beginning of the year 1645.

The excellent and truly charitable Dr. Wilson, bishop of Sodor and Man; and Hollingshed, author of the famous Chronicles of England; were likewise natives of Cheshire.

Having not only some affairs to transact in the vicinity of Ruthin, but also a desire of taking a bird's-eye peep into North Wales, we gladly availed ourselves of the former excuse to visit a little corner of the Principality; regretting only that neither the season of the year nor the limits of our time would permit our penetrating farther into a part of the kingdom we had heard so much of, and so earnestly desired to see. Contenting ourselves however as well as we could with what we had seen in the course of our northern ramble, and hoping that at some future period we might be enabled to visit those parts of the empire which we imagined would afford us additional gratification, we bade adieu to Chester; and pursued our way over an abominable road and through an ugly country to Mold, a town in Flintshire, seated upon a gentle eminence in the midst of a small but rather pleasant plain, in which there are some gentlemen's seats and several views by no means disagreeable or uninteresting. The church is a large Gothic fabric, erected in the reign of Henry VII.; placed on a fine commanding situation, and forming a most respectable and even handsome addition to the surrounding scene. The mount, an artificial eminence at a small distance from the church, is of a circular form, and appears to have been strongly fortified by ditches. A winding path leads to its summit, from which there is a very extensive view of the circumjacent country; pleasantly diversified by a variety of rural and agreeable objects, and bounded upon all sides by lofty hills: especially upon the western quarter; where the rugged steeps of Moel Famma rise in majestic pride, and tower above their

fellows in sullen gloomy grandeur. At Mold the assizes are now held: and Flint, the county town, is fast going to decay; while on the contrary the former is increasing in size and population, and the manufactures established in its neighbourhood will no doubt largely contribute towards its future prosperity.

Flintshire, though cold and bleak, is accounted healthful, and the valleys are tolerably fruitful; but the high grounds are peculiarly bare and wild in their appearance Of coal there is abundance in the county; particularly near Mold, upon the road from that town to Chester. As far as Ruthin there is little to be seen but hills and frightful wilds of bare and desolate aspect, unvaried by a single tree or object of any kind in the least degree agreeable for nearly ten miles of the way; when, on arriving at the summit of a steep and rugged mountain, as if to compensate for the traveller's former unpleasant track, the view at once bursts on the rich and beautiful vale of Clywd. This is a plain considerably more than twenty miles in length, and from six to eight in breadth: encompassed, except towards the north, by mountains of various heights and shapes; and diversified by towns, villages, seats, churches, castles, meadows, woods, and hedges. It is, in short, devoid of no one object to render it exquisitely beautiful, except water; the Clywd, though passing through the vale, being too far sunk within its banks to prove any addition to he loveliness of the scene. Descending one of the longest and steepest hills we ever had occasion to pass over, we entered this celebrated vale, and shortly after reached the town of Ruthin in Denbighshire: which, after a nearer survey, we found to be, like many other objects that fancy presents to our sight through a false mirror, very different from what we had before pictured to ourselves (when viewing it as we descended the hill through a grove of trees); and destitute of any buildings of good appearance except the jail and church, with streets ill-paved, unpleasant, and irregular. Its situation is however a very agreeable one; and the prospect from the ruins of an ancient castle is extensive, varied, sweetly pastoral, and pleasing. This now almost entirely dilapidated fabric was seated on a rock which partly served as a facing to the fortifications; and sustained a long and arduous siege in the year 1646, being then garrisoned by the loyalists, who were at length compelled to surrender to their more powerful opponents. In 1400 Owen Glendower resolved to plunder the inhabitants: and taking advantage of a fair at Ruthin, surprised and stripped them of all their valuable moveables; after which he returned laden with his booty to the strong-holds in the interior of the country, where it was almost impossible for any force to conquer or even venture to attack him and his train of followers. The roof of the church

is curiously ornamented with carving, with the names of the workmen on the different parts of it. A monument of Dr. Goodman, dean of Westminster in the days of Elizabeth, is plainly yet genteely decorated; and a likeness of that illustrious divine, who was a native of Ruthin, is represented by a bust. The jail is a new and commodious building of good appearance, and placed in an airy situation; the assizes are sometimes held there: and there is a very good ball-room over the town-house, which during the time of public festivity is filled with the beauties of North Wales. The scenery near the bridge at Ruthin is extremely picturesque, and deserving of notice.

Having spent two days in Ruthin and its neighbourhood, we pursued our way towards the far-famed vale of Langollen. Passing over a long and dreary mountain, as steep and disagreeable as that we had descended into the vale of Clwyd from Flintshire, we entered upon a dismal tract of country: and after traversing its desolated wilds for several miles, we again descended into a deep and narrow valley, in which stands the remains of Valle Crucis abbey; one of the most highly boasted objects of curiosity and gratification to every person who has made the tour of North Wales, and has a taste for either the vestiges of antiquity or the beauties of a romantic situation, both which this once-noble structure possesses in a very great degree. Valle Crucis was among the first of the Welsh abbeys or religious houses which were dissolved; for in 1285 the monks who had inhabited it were dispersed to other quarters, and till the reign of James I. it was vested in the crown, but by him bestowed on Walton. The church, which was in the form of a cross, was in a style of architecture at once irregular, curious, and tasteful; but, alas! little of its former grandeur now remains except the western window; which is of an uncommonly large size, extremely beautiful, and surmounted by another round window elegantly decorated with a variety of sculptured ornaments most splendidly executed. Of the spacious apartments appropriated to the use of the abbot, the greater part are now converted into domestic chambers for the family of a farmer; whose cattle, pigs, and poultry, are also lodged in other parts of this once-superb structure, which in a few years more will in all probability be levelled with the dust by the destroying hand of time. Founded by Madoc ap Griffith Maylor, prince of Powis, for a body of Cistercian monks, Valle Crucis abbey was dedicated to the holy Virgin, and endowed with a considerable revenue. Its situation, as a retirement from the world, could not have been more happily selected. Deep in a lonely valley surrounded by enormous rugged mountains,

it was embosomed in a grove of venerable trees: and close beside a winding rivulet which slowly and in silence steals along the vale till it joins the river Dee; that pours its waters from the mountainous districts on the right of the road, and passing underneath the bridge at Llangollen, continues its course along that celebrated vale, and after many windings finds rest in the ocean some miles below the city of Chester. From the bridge there is a very romantic view of the adjacent country: and of the foaming turbulent waters of the Dee, dashing over a broad and shelving ledge of rock, and tumbling into a deep-worn bason from which it again rises and pursues its way along the vale; its banks in some parts clothed with low tufted trees and brushwood, in others bare and enlivened by verdure of the most brilliant dye. Llangollen is but a small mean town, remarkable for nothing except the beauty of its situation, in a narrow valley environed by high and rugged mountains scantily clothed with wood, and unvaried by any very strikingly grand or awful precipices; for though much has been said in praise of Llangollen-vale, it is certainly far inferior to many scenes of the same nature in various parts of the kingdom. At a little distance from the town stands the cottage so often celebrated for its elegance, simplicity, and neatness; the abode of harmony and friendship; the retreat of lady Eleanor Butler and miss Ponsonby: who retired at an early period in life from their connections and the world, to pass their days in privacy; where, setting an example of virtue, elegance, and all that can be accounted lovely in the female character, they have passed a long series of years within the precincts of

"The fairy palace of the vale."

Upon a hill directly opposite the town, are the ruins of Dinas Brân; which Leland says "was never bigge thing, but sette al for great strenght, as in a place half inaccesable for enemies." It has long been in a state of dilapidation, and is supposed to be of great antiquity; but at no time has it been remarkable for grandeur or extent, and the remains of it are scarcely worth the trouble of ascending a very steep hill to take a near survey of.

From Llangollen the road winds along the side of the mountain till it reaches the extremity of the valley; where on the left we saw one of the most stupendous aqueducts in Britain, crossing the deep vale for the purpose of continuing a navigation leading to Manchester, &c. It is chiefly composed of cast-iron; and has on the top a light and elegant ballustrade, which gives an excellent finish to the whole. The arches

are eighteen in number, and of the height of a hundred and twenty feet above the channel of the river; constructed at an immense expence, and unquestionably one of the most astonishing works of art to be seen in any part of the kingdom. Soon after winding round the base of a rugged ascent, we arrived at the gate which leads up to Chirk-castle (now, in right of his lady, formerly miss Middleton, the seat of R. Middleton Biddulph, esq.) where having been informed that we might drive through the grounds if we were so inclined, we did not hesitate to make use of the permission; and in a little time arrived in front of the castle, a building of great extent, founded by Roger Mortimer in the thirteenth century, and completely repaired and beautified by the late Mr. Middleton. Placed on a commanding eminence, the views from it extend over a rich and cultivated tract of country; including part of Cheshire, Shropshire, and (it is said) even fifteen counties more. The exterior of the edifice is solemn, and partaking more of melancholy grandeur than either boldness or magnificence: its massy battlements, its antique windows, and large towers, are admirably suited to each other; and upon the whole it may justly be accounted one of the most august and nobly-venerable fabrics in the kingdom. It has been in the possession of the Middleton family two hundred years. The park is an extensive tract of ground, broken into hills and valleys, and adorned with large plantations most judiciously and tastefully arranged; the liberty of riding through a part of which all travellers ought to be well pleased with. The interior of the building, we were told, is splendid and commodious; but we did not ask permission to see it.

On leaving the grounds at Chirk, we passed the village that bears the same name: and winding down a hill into a sweet romantic valley watered by the Ceriage, we crossed a handsome bridge of one arch; whence on our right we beheld another noble aqueduct of fourteen lofty arches, which also conveys the water of a canal across the valley and the river, and has cost above fifty thousand pounds in the construction. Rich mines of coals are worked upon the side of the canal; which, when entirely completed, will extend from Shrewsbury to Chester, Manchester, and many other places of importance in that part of the country.

Hence we proceeded to the ancient town of Oswestry, six miles from Chirk-castle, and seated in a pleasant plain upon the confines of Shropshire. Its appearance is tolerably good: but we did not hear it was famed for any thing except as having been the spot on which a battle was fought between a christian king of Northumberland and a pagan prince of Mercia in the year 643, on which occasion Oswald (the former) was defeated and slain by Penda the Mercian prince; and he was afterwards canonized

by the monks, to whom he had been a warm friend during the whole course of his reign. A well, named in honour of his memory, was supposed to possess most extraordinary virtues, and drew to it in former times vast crowds of superstitious and bigoted persons; by whom a chapel was erected over the holy spring, the remains of which are yet standing, and are the sole vestiges of antiquity now to be seen at or near the town of Oswestry. From this place to Shrewsbury the country is extremely picturesque, and some of the hills near the road are singularly wild and romantic: we were however rather unlucky in respect to weather during our ride, and it was only at intervals that a drizzling rain and heavy mist permitted us to distinguish objects at any distance from the carriage; a circumstance we the more regretted, as we had been told the scenery around is uncommonly delightful.

CHAP. XII.

SHREWSBURY.—ITS HISTORY.—THE CASTLE.—ST. WINIFREDE.—ST. BRUNO.—THE RIVER SEVERN.—QUARRY WALK.—MANUFACTORIES, &c.—SHROPSHIRE.—WYCHERLY, THE DRAMATIC WRITER.—CHURCH STRETTON.—LUDLOW.—THE CHURCH.—THE CASTLE.—ANTIQUITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.—CARACTACUS.—RIVER TIME.—LEOMINSTER.—THE CHURCH.—OLD ALMSHOUSE.—ORIGIN OF ITS INSCRIPTION.—ROAD TO HEREFORD.—THE RACE-GROUND.—THE CITY.—OFFA'S DYKE.—PALACE AT SOUTHTOWN, OR SUTTON.—MURDER OF ETHELBERT.—THE CATHEDRAL.—RIVER WYE.—THE PALACE.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—EPITAPH IN MINISTER-YARD.—ENVIRONS OF HEREFORD.—BEAUTY OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY.—HOLMLACY.—ASTONISHING PEAR-TREE.—HAMPTON-COURT.—CASTLE-GREEN AT HEREFORD.—VIEW FROM THENCE.—IMMODERATE USE OF CYDER.—CLIMATE OF HEREFORDSHIRE.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—ROAD TO ROSS.—THAT TOWN.—"MAN OF ROSS."—VILLAGE OF WHITCHURCH.—MONMOUTH.—GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH.—THE COUNTY.—ROAD TO CHEPSTOW.—THE CASTLE AND BRIDGE.—CROSS THE FERRY-ROAD TO BRISTOL, AND ARRIVAL AT BATH.

THE town of Shrewsbury (of ancient date, and the capital of Shropshire) is now a place of considerable importance, bustle, and population; containing some few very handsome buildings, but in general presenting little to gratify the traveller who looks

for elegance, regularity, or grandeur, in the towns he visits. By the Saxons it was called *Scrobberig*, or "the town of shrubs," from the circumstance of its being seated on a hill overgrown with low trees and a variety of shrubs and bushes. In the reign of Ethelred the Danes attacked and plundered the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, put several of them to a cruel death, and committed various other dreadful excesses. In the wars between Maud and king Stephen it stood a formidable siege: and in the reign of Henry III. the refractory barons having been declared traitors, fled into Wales; and being joined by numerous forces marched to this place, laid waste the marches, burnt part of the town, and after effecting a reconciliation with their monarch, left it to recover its injuries as well as it could. In the time of Henry IV. it again became the scene of disturbance; and in its neighbourhood a desperate engagement took place, in which the leader of the rebels (the earl of Northumberland) was slain, after which his body was cut in quarters and placed upon the gates of the town. Charles II. would have made it a city, but the inhabitants preferred remaining as they were. It was incorporated by Charles I.; who met a most favourable reception there after his disappointment at Nottingham.—The town is governed by a mayor and other officers. Extensive manufactories of flannel and other woollen goods are established in Shrewsbury, and afford employment to many hundred persons in the town and neighbourhood. There are three weekly markets, most abundantly supplied with every necessary article; and likewise several fairs for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep, and immense quantities of cheese, butter, flannels, &c. the produce of the upper districts of the county, and of a part of Wales. The Severn, which almost surrounds the town, is navigable for large barges some miles still higher up; and on its banks is a beautiful walk, extending round a space of nearly twenty acres of ground, formerly a confused mixture of open quarries and rubbish, but now a smooth green, and a prodigious ornament to the place. A broad walk leads in the centre to the river-side, shaded by rows of trees; and round the whole is another charming walk bounded also by trees, and kept in the best state of cleanliness and good order. Seats for the accommodation of persons walking are placed at certain distances, and the views from thence are extremely picturesque and pleasing. Near this walk is the new church, one of the most elegant buildings we had lately seen: it is of a circular form, composed of free-stone, and superbly ornamented with pilasters between each window, with a beautiful cornice and handsome dome surmounting the whole.

Soon after the Conquest, Roger earl of Montgomery erected a castle and an abbey at Shrewsbury: the former is still complete,

but the latter has long been in a state of decay. Within its walls were deposited the earthly remains of saint Winifrede, a fair damsel of North Wales who lived in the seventh century, and was religiously and strictly educated by her uncle the holy saint Beuno at his residence in Flintshire: but being endowed with uncommon beauty she attracted the notice of prince Cradocus, a fierce and haughty chief; who, finding her virtue not to be overcome by his repeated importunities and temptations, determined on carrying her off and obtaining possession of her person by force. Accordingly, he one day overtook her in a lonely part of her father's grounds; and, inspired by passion, ventured upon some liberties which the lady resisted with the highest indignation. This so incensed the brutal ravisher, that in a fit of phrenzy he unsheathed his sword, and at one blow severed her head from her body: the former instantly commencing its progress down a steep declivity, and stopping of its own accord upon the very spot where now is a well issuing from a spring! which (wonderful to relate) burst out just at the moment when the lovely Winifrede's head rested from its precipitate descent. But the most surprizing part of the story is, that after the head had performed its journey down the hill, and caused the miraculous spring to issue forth just at the instant it stopped from its descent, saint Beuno, hastening to the relief of his niece, caught it up, and flying with all possible speed to the still warm body, most ingeniously contrived to join them together, and the fair damsel was once more restored to life, to the astonishment (as well it might be) of all who ever saw or heard of her. In process of time, however, death overcame even the wonderful power of saint Beuno, and the beautiful saint Winifrede was called from this world of care: her remains being most religiously deposited in the abbey church at Shrewsbury; and still, no doubt, entombed amidst the ruins of that once stately edifice. For many years the miraculous well now called by her name, was supposed to have the power of healing all disorders, and consequently the credulous and superstitious most devoutly performed their usual ceremonies at the shrine of the saint: but either the waters have lost much of their former virtues, or some other cause more natural and easy to be imagined prevents their being now so frequently resorted to as formerly, though there are persons yet weak enough to credit the absurd tale of their origin; for what will not credulity and folly believe, or what will not the ignorant and vulgar credit even in this enlightened age of reason, in which so many of our profound philosophers and philanthropic sages have laboured to eradicate all old-fashioned prejudices, and to remove the veil of error from before the eyes of their disciples?

The climate of Shropshire is accounted healthful; and, except upon the very high grounds, the air is not so sharp as in several other counties. Mines of lead, copper, and iron, are found in it; and coal-pits inexhaustible. The principal rivers are the Severn, the Teme, and Colu. The salmon caught in the first is of the most delicious flavour.

The celebrated Wycherly, the author of several comedies, was a native of Shropshire, and born about the year 1640. Being immoderately fond of pleasure, and encouraged by the example of his gay companions in the first circles of fashion, he pursued a course of dissipation and extravagance instead of following with steadiness the profession of the law, to which he had been bred. To his play of Love in a Wood, acted for the first time in 1672, he was indebted for a great addition to his former large list of acquaintances; and for his intimacy with the duchess of Cleveland, who introduced herself to his acquaintance in a manner that in these days would be accounted grossly indelicate and indecorous. A few years afterwards his Plain Dealer made its appearance, and gained him the friendship of the duke of Buckingham, as well as of the king; who carried his regard for Mr. Wycherly so far as even to visit him during a fit of illness, and also to afford him the means of repairing to the south of France for the complete recovery of his health. Immersed in all the dissipations of the age in which he lived, he continued to enjoy the smiles of fortune and the favour of his sovereign: till upon his marrying the young, beautiful, and wealthy countess of Drogheda, then a widow, he lost the goodwill of the king, who had intended to place him in the capacity of tutor to one of his sons; a plan which his marriage totally, and much to his majesty's dissatisfaction, overturned; as the king imagined, the countess had settled all her estates upon her husband in the most secure manner possible: yet at her death, which happened but a few years after their union, his claims were disputed, and the issue of a long and expensive law-suit reduced him to poverty and extreme distress. In this state he continued several years, till relieved by the bounty of James II.: who, seeing his Plain Dealer performed, was so enraptured with the wit and humour of the author, that he immediately gave orders for the payment of all his debts; and a regular pension of two hundred pounds per annum, which continued to be paid till the king left England. At a very advanced age Mr. Wycherly again entered the pale of matrimony with a young lady of fortune; but he survived his nuptials only a few days, and was interred in Covent Garden church. His talents, wit, and sprightliness, had rendered him an universal favourite with the great, the gay, and the gallant of both sexes; and his

plays undoubtedly abound in humorous and lively sallies. But the wit of that age is not now relished by the delicate and polished part of mankind; and the less lively, though more chaste allusions of modern authors, are more admired by those who do not wish to make a sacrifice of delicacy to merriment and laughter.

From Shrewsbury we proceeded to Church Stretton: an insignificant little village seated in a valley, and consisting of only one street; in which there are no genteel houses, nor any building in the whole place deserving a moment's notice. To Ludlow the road for several miles runs through a wild and picturesque valley; but on approaching nearer that town, the views become more extensive and varied, and the general appearance of the country is agreeable and fertile.

Ludlow is seated upon a hill above the river Teme, and is generally allowed to be one of the cleanest and most cheerful-looking towns in England. It contains many handsome houses, though few public edifices of any note except the church: which is a remarkably beautiful Gothic structure, with a tower of very superior workmanship, and lighted by windows of stained glass; containing likewise some ancient monuments deserving of notice, and an inscription on the north wall of the choir relating to prince Arthur, whose bowels were deposited near that spot. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence, and a piece of tapestry is shewn in it which once adorned the walls of an apartment in the castle; but if this ever was remarkable for beauty, time has bereaved it of the little it possessed.

The town is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, &c., and sends two members to parliament. It has a plentiful market, and as genteel society as any place in the kingdom can boast of. In the neighbourhood are annual races always well attended. The castle, founded by Roger de Montgomery, has been a spacious and handsome fabric, with lofty battlements, and towers of considerable strength. Placed on the brink of a high bank overlooking the Teme, it has commanded an extensive tract of country upon one quarter; while on the other it guarded the town, to which it almost joined. Originally its walls were two miles in circumference, and inclosed much ground that is now converted to other purposes. During the civil wars it sustained a formidable siege from the Scottish forces under the command of David; which had marched to the assistance of Maud, who was his niece. On that occasion Henry, son of the Scottish monarch, being caught by a hook thrown by some soldiers over the walls, was pulled from off his horse, and must inevitably have fallen a sacrifice to their fury; had not Stephen, with a generosity that did him infinite honour, flown to the assistance of his enemy, and

rescued him from his perilous situation. In the reign of Henry II. Ludlow-castle was deemed of the utmost importance; and was bestowed on Mortimer, whose name is yet given to one of the loftiest of the towers. Another called the prince's tower contained the apartments occupied by the sons of Edward IV., who resided at Ludlow when sent for to London by their worthless uncle Richard III. Here prince Arthur expired; and here too Milton's masque of Comus was first performed by noble personages, during the period of the earl of Bridgewater's presidency of the marches. It is said that a considerable part of Butler's Hudibras was composed in this castle: which, since the reign of William III., who dissolved the court of the lord deputy of Wales and the marches, has been entirely neglected, and suffered to fall into a state of great dilapidation; leaving ere long

> No chronicle of all its warlike pride,
> To testify what once it was.

The walks cut in the steep bank between the castle and the river, are extremely pleasing; and though free to all the inhabitants of the town, kept in great order. The manufactures of the place are gloves, hats, and flannels, but none of them extensively carried on; and, in fact, it is more a genteel town, than one likely to increase in opulence and population. In the neighbourhood are several remains of antiquity particularly deserving of notice: among which are the ruins of a fortress on a hill near the village of *Caer Caradoe*, supposed to have been erected by Caractacus; who so bravely withstood the united forces of the Romans till treacherously betrayed, and placed in their power by the queen of the Brigantes. But neither perfidy nor artifice could subdue the noble spirit, or awe the bravery, of the valiant chief: who, upon being carried prisoner to Rome and presented to the emperor Claudius as his captive, addressed him in the following manly words; which so entirely won the favour of the Romans, that Claudius found it expedient to grant him his freedom, and he remained for many years afterwards in that city in the high esteem of all the people:—"Had my moderation in prosperity," said this brave man, "been adequate to my family and fortune, then I had entered your city rather as a friend than as a captive: nor would you then have disdained an alliance with a prince descended from illustrious ancestors, and the chief of many nations. My present condition is to me dishonourable: to you it is glorious. I was master of horses, of men, arms, and riches. No wonder I was unwilling to lose them; for though your ambition is universal, it does not follow that all mankind were obliged to submit to the yoke. Had I been sooner betrayed, I had neither been distinguished by misfortune, nor you by glory;

and had I fallen, oblivion had been the consequence of my fate. But if you now save my life, I shall be an eternal monument of your clemency and generosity." To have condemned such a man, would have been unworthy of a Roman; and have cast a stain upon the character of Claudius, no future act of greatness could have compensated for.

On leaving Ludlow we crossed the Teme by an ancient bridge at the lower extremity of the town: and shortly after entering Herefordshire, pursued our way to Leominster; a small dirty town upon the borders of the river Lug, entirely destitute of any object, except a handsome Gothic church, to gratify curiosity, or attract a traveller's attention. At the western extremity of the town we observed, in the course of our ramble while the horses were refreshing, an ancient building erected for an alms-house; on the front of which are the remains of a figure which in its better days supported a hatchet in one hand, and above its head had the following inscription:

> He that gives his goods before he's dead,
> Let him take up this hatchet and chop off his head:

a piece of advice by no means so absurd as may at first appear to many, when it is recollected how little gratitude for favours received prevails in the bosoms of a large portion of mankind; and likewise when they are informed that the person whose figure had been there represented was once a gentleman of considerable property, which he uncautiously bestowed upon persons he conceived to be in want of his assistance, and reduced himself to the extreme of poverty by his liberalities. Applying however in the midst of his distresses to those on whom he had lavished his possessions, and who were then (owing to his former bounty) in affluence and ease, he was refused the least assistance; which so affected the poor man, that, pining for a short time in the utmost wretchedness, he descended into the grave, and left his ungrateful friends to reflect and be ashamed of their own inhuman conduct. His widow, having some time afterwards become possessed once more of a good fortune, built this alms-house at Leominster; and had the figure and inscription already mentioned placed over the entrance, to serve as a warning to others for avoiding the rock her husband's peace had been completely wrecked upon.

From Leominster to Hereford there are some beautiful and extensive views: particularly that from the top of Dinmore-hill; where the eye may roam over a great part of that rich and truly beautiful county, a part of Worcestershire, Monmouth, and some parts of both North and South Wales. The approach to the

city is pleasant, but not by any means so fine on that quarter as from some others. In our way we passed the race-ground; a small indifferent course, where there are annual races, but in general poor sport.

Hereford is a place of great antiquity, seated upon the banks of the Wye; near the centre of one of the richest, most beautiful, and healthful counties in England. From the quantities of fern that grew around it, Hereford was by the Saxons denominated Fernley: but towards the end of their government it received its present name from the circumstance, it is said, of a Saxon general being obliged to draw off his forces with precipitation from before a party of the ancient Britons with whom he had been skirmishing; when mistaking in his haste the ordinary passage across the Wye, he continued following its course till the pursuit of the enemy became too close to be eluded; when, boldly plunging into the stream, and calling to his followers *Here ford*, he in safety gained the opposite shore, and marched into the city, which was near that spot.

In the reign of Offa, king of Mercia, a palace was built near the city, and also a wall called Sulton's wall, the remains of which are yet to be seen; as likewise a hollow place called Offa's cellar, in which a silver ring of antique workmanship was found upon digging there some years ago. Offa's dyke, the barrier which that monarch raised to secure his dominions from the incursions of the Welsh, is yet visible in several parts of Herefordshire, as well as in the adjoining counties of Brecon and Radnor. It extended from Chepstow, at the mouth of the Wye, to near the walls of Chester. The palace at South Town, or Sutton as it is commonly called, was in the days of Offa the scene of a most barbarous act of cruelty and perfidy, in some respects not unlike the assassination of the Scottish monarch by Macbeth. Having agreed upon a marriage between his daughter and the king of the East Angles, the intended son-in-law was invited to a sumptuous entertainment prepared on his account at Sutton, where Offa and his queen received him with every mark of joy and respect. But the latter was a woman of consummate hypocrisy and unbounded ambition; and to gain her purpose could assume any disguise, however foreign to her real disposition or inclination: and having formed a design to put an end to her unsuspecting guest, in order that her son might succeed to his dominions, she imparted her wicked plan to one Winthert, a confidential domestic in the palace, who readily undertook to perpetrate the deed in any manner she chose to appoint. Accordingly a chair of state was placed for Ethelbert in the chamber where he was to sleep, directly over a part of the floor so constructed as to give way the moment he seated himself;

and the unfortunate prince was precipitated into a vault beneath; where Wintbert, ready to complete his purpose, waited, and immediately dispatched him. His body was instantly removed, and interred at a place called Marden: where a well, named St. Ethelbert's well, is said to have appeared; the waters of which, like those of St. Winifrede's and many other miraculous springs, had the power of healing all disorders, and of course for ages retained its wonderful qualities.

Struck with remorse for having been a party in this horrid transaction, the wretched Offa caused the body of the murdered Ethelbert to be taken up and carried to the cathedral: where, as a testimony of his contrition, he erected a monument to his memory: and bestowed rich grants of lands and money on the canons of the church, the first of which they still enjoy the revenues arising from: and further to evince his sense of the guilt he had incurred, he undertook a pilgrimage to Rome; and, lastly, built an abbey at St. Alban's. The queen died of grief; after having seen her son, for whose sake she had planned the bloody deed, cut off by an accident: and her daughter, detesting the crimes of her parents and the authors of her woes, retired into a convent, where she ended her days in solitude and sorrow. The many virtues of Ethelbert having been ever justly estimated, they were not forgotten after his death: he was canonized; and by Mildred, a king of Mercia, the cathedral was enlarged and dedicated to him, under the stile of "king and martyr." In consequence of its containing the sacred relics of the saints, Hereford became a place of great resort for pious pilgrims; who, according to their means, contributed to the enrichment and encrease of the city. Thus in time it became of such importance, that Gryffyn, prince of Wales, for the sake of plunder, attacked and took possession of it in 1056: and, with a more than ordinary share of wickedness, marched to the cathedral, in which holy sanctuary the principal inhabitants had taken refuge with their most valuable effects; where finding his entrance opposed by the bishop and other clergy, he forcibly drove them aside, and in defiance of prayers, intreaties, and remonstrances, put every person to death whom he found within the church. Stripping it of its ornaments, he set it on fire; and the flames spreading to the city, that also was nearly reduced to ashes. But success did not on this occasion long attend on the sacrilegious plunderers. They pitched their tents upon a neighbouring hill, and giving way to debauchery, were surprised by Harold; who fell upon them with a numerous force, and after a terrible slaughter drove the few who had escaped his vengeance

back to their native wilds, from which they were afraid again to return. In 1645 Hereford was besieged by the Scots under the command of lord Leven: who at last surprised the unwary garrison; and entering the city, delivered it up to the ravages of his army, who completely plundered the inhabitants and the cathedral of their most valuable ornaments. Few places in the kingdom, at a distance from the coast, are more happily situated for the extension of manufactures; yet few are more completely dull, or the inhabitants endowed with less of that spirit which tends to raise either persons or places into consequence: and it is much to be regretted that a city so ancient, and placed in so rich a country, should be so backward in the establishment of one of those things which renders England the envy of the world—her flourishing manufactures. Having excellent wool in the county, a manufactory might be established with great advantage in which that article could be rendered useful; but such is the want of enterprise among the people in this part of the kingdom, that though a sum was bequeathed by a friend to the prosperity of the city a great many years ago, to be lent free of interest to any person undertaking a woollen manufactory, none have yet appeared inclined to avail themselves of this advantage, and the money has in consequence lain till it has accumulated from four hundred pounds to two thousand. From this specimen it will not be difficult to judge of the indolence and want of enterprise in the natives of Herefordshire, who neither seem inclined to profit by the numberless gifts which nature has bestowed upon their county, nor hold out any encouragement to strangers of any rank in life to settle among them. To say that Hereford is finely situated, is not enough: it is much more, it is beautiful; and every part of the county (to all of which I am no stranger) is enchantingly lovely, fertile, diversified, and picturesque in the sweetest manner it is possible for fancy to paint. The southern boundaries of the city are washed by the river Wye, over which there is a good substantial but not elegant bridge. In a house not far from this the celebrated Nell Gwyn was born; the witty mistress of Charles II., and the person to whom the nation owes one of its finest institutions—the hospital for disabled soldiers at Chelsea. The town-house is a mean and very shabby building; nor is the theatre, though decent in its exterior, by any means properly or tolerably fitted up. The new gaol erected on Mr. Howard's plan, and the infirmary, are both good buildings; but the bishop's palace, though most delightfully situated on the banks of the river, is a wretched old place, in appearance more resembling an alms-house than the residence of a diocesan. The cathedral, though irregular, is handsome; and previous to the fall of the great tower

in 1786, must have been a magnificent structure. The choir is spacious; and contains a capital organ, with some tolerable monuments. The roof of the cross aisle is uncommonly fine; and the library (formerly a chapel dedicated to the Virgin) contains likewise some monuments, a number of ancient manuscripts, and a quantity of curious carving. On the south end of the choir are the ruins of the chapter-house; which had been an elegant building, but was destroyed in the civil wars. In the church-yard is a curious epitaph upon the tombstone of a citizen of Hereford who, being a gay, festive soul, frequently paid a visit to a public house known by the name of the Swan inn :

> Oft at the Swan has Ben kill'd time,
> 'Mong sons of mirth a venial crime;
> But, strange to tell, old Time revives—what then?
> Time in revenge has now kill'd Ben.

The castle-green, a public walk upon the river-side, is one of the chief ornaments of Hereford. The view from it is beautiful and varied in a very high degree : commanding the windings of the Wye for a considerable length of way, its finely diversified banks, the wooded hills that rise in various forms around the lovely plain, the bridge, part of the city, the cathedral, and the dark frowning ridge of mountains that at a distance separate the county from South Wales; in short, such an assemblage of objects that it is impossible for my pen to do half justice to their beauty. In the vicinity of the city are many charming seats well worthy of a stranger's notice: particularly some of those upon the banks of the Wye; and the noble residence of the late Mr. Foley at Stoke, a place which wants only a view of water to be one of the finest in the kingdom.—Holm-Lacy, a seat belonging to the duke of Norfolk, is beautifully situated in a delightful plain encompassed by lofty hills; with all the additional charms which wood, water, and a fertile country, can bestow to render it enchanting : but the building is old-fashioned, dark, and gloomy in its appearance; and the grounds immediately round the house are laid out in the taste of king William's days, when "groves" were made to "nod at groves," and "each alley had its brother." Some good paintings are in the house; and one piece is particularly admired by all judges of the art. The subject is, Solomon entertaining the queen of Sheba at a banquet; and his grace is represented as the mighty king of Israel, the duchess as his royal guest, and two relatives of the family as visitors, with some appropriate figures in the background. It is a fine piece, and the likenesses are said to be well preserved. In the grounds belonging to the parsonage at Holm, there is a pear-tree of astonishing size and fruitfulness, which in

different seasons has produced from twelve to fourteen hogsheads of liquor; a fact attested by the most unquestionable authority. From one parent root springs the whole of this extraordinary tree; now increased by layers, suckers, &c.: and in whole it covers above a quarter of an acre.

About six miles from the city, near the Leominster road, is an ancient castle founded by Henry IV., and now in the possession of the earl of Essex, whose predecessor acquired it by marriage with the heiress of the last lord Coningsby. It is named Hampton-court; and is a large Gothic structure of a venerable appearance, in excellent repair, and fitted up with much taste and excellence. In one of the apartments we were shewn a small box covered with glass, containing a handkerchief (now indeed of a most dismal hue) with which lord Coningsby had stopped the blood that flowed from a wound king William received at the famous battle of the Boyne. It is preserved with great care, and doubtless will remain in its present state till time effectually completes its destruction. The castle is seated in a small plain near the river Lug, encompassed by high woody hills that in front present a very picturesque appearance; while those behind, laid out in an extensive park, command a charming prospect of the adjacent country. Thus situated, the view from this spot is very contracted; but it is sweetly picturesque, and has a most agreeable air of serenity and retirement.

Of the beauty of Herefordshire it is impossible to convey a just idea, so bountiful has nature been in bestowing on it innumerable charms which scarce any other county in the empire can equal. At all seasons of the year it is delightful: but in the spring when the apple-orchards are in blossom,—or in the autumn when the trees are bending beneath their loads of fruit, interspersed at times with hops, whose dark-green leaves and flaxen-coloured bunches twine round the high and regularly planted poles; when rich and luxuriant crops of grain wave in the fields, and meads of the finest verdure vary and enrich the landscape,—then Herefordshire is in its glory, and well deserves the appellation it has frequently received, of "the garden of England." But there, as in other places where nature has been most bountiful in climate, soil, and fertility, men are less inclined to profit by these advantages, than in parts where much greater labour is required to till the ground, and the reward of that labour is more uncertain and of less consequence: for with all its rural softness, richness, and picturesque scenery, it wants the addition of proper cultivators of its soil. The farmers too, as well as cottagers, are miserably backward in the science of husbandry: and equally deficient in the cleanliness and good order of their dwellings and farm-yards; the latter being usually, as in-

deed are most of their buildings, in a state of great confusion, nastiness, and disorder. Of cyder, the liquor of the county, all ranks and ages here are excessively fond; and the lower class of the natives seem to consider a plentiful crop of apples, as a matter of infinitely greater consequence than a fine crop of grain. Not a labourer will engage to work without a large allowance of his favourite beverage: and no peasant goes even a few miles from home without his little keg of cyder slung over his shoulder; which, if exhausted in the course of his walk, he will deviate a considerable distance from his road to replenish at a farmer's or gentleman's mansion. This liquor, however, notwithstanding their immoderate use of it, agrees very well with the natives accustomed to it from their infancy; and in general they are healthy, robust, and long-lived.

In the city of Hereford the celebrated Garrick was born: and in the county the unfortunate earl of Essex, the once-loved favourite of queen Elizabeth; as also the worthy Mr. Kyrle, best known by the appellation of "the man of Ross," whose character Pope has so admirably described. For upwards of sixty years he contributed in the most uncommon manner to the happiness and comfort of his fellow mortals: subsisting himself upon the scanty pittance of *fifty* pounds a year, while he expended the remainder of *five hundred* in acts of charity and beneficence, performing almost unequalled deeds of generosity; which, as they are so ably described by the poet who sweetly sung his praise, I shall not attempt to recapitulate, but in his own words add what more is to be said respecting this most truly worthy character:

But all our praises why should lords engross?
Rise, honest muse, and sing the Man of Ross.—
Whose causeway parts the vale with shady rows?
Whose seats the weary traveller repose?
Who taught that heaven-directed spire to rise?
"The man of Ross," each lisping babe replies.—
Behold the market-place with poor o'erspread!
The man of Ross divides the daily bread.
He built yon alms-house; neat, but void of state,
Where age and want sit smiling at the gate.
Him portion'd maids, apprenticed orphans blest,
The young who labour, and the old who rest.—
Is any sick? the Man of Ross relieves;
Prescribes, attends, the medicine makes and gives.
Is there a variance? enter but his door;
Balk'd are the courts, and contest is no more:
Despairing quacks with curses fled the place,
And vile attorneys now an useless race.—
Thrice-happy man! enabled to pursue
What many wish, but want the power, to do;
Oh! say, what sums that gen'rous hand supply,
What mines to swell that boundless charity.—

Of debts and taxes, wife and children, clear,
This man possess'd—five hundred pounds a year.
Blush, grandeur, blush; proud courts, withdraw your blaze;
Ye little stars, hide your diminish'd rays!

To Ross we bent our way from Hereford: not by the usual road; but by the one which leads through the village of Mordiford, seated on the borders of the Lug, and near its junction with the Wye; and by another hamlet named Townhope, also placed in a pleasant situation. Ascending a steep hill, from the summit we beheld one of the richest and most beautifully varied views in England: in which the windings of the Wye in the luxuriant plain below, formed the most enchanting picture it is possible to imagine; while on every hand rich meadows, charming seats, a profusion of wood, and most magnificent hills, combined to render this almost the finest view even Herefordshire can boast of. From thence to Ross, at every turning of the road new beauties start up to view; but that town itself has nothing remarkable in it to draw attention, far less excite admiration. It is a very ancient place, populous but not well-built, with narrow irregular streets, and these not very clean. Being a great thoroughfare to Wales from Gloucester, &c. it is often crowded with travellers; and in the summer numberless parties resort thither in order to commence their excursions down the Wye. Boats being kept for this purpose at Ross, which may be had for about six guineas to go as far as Chepstow; a distance which usually takes up about two days, there being much so see and admire upon the way. Wilton-castle, Goodrich-castle, Tintern-abbey, and Piercefield, are all to be visited upon that route; so that though the distance is not great, less time will scarcely suffice to perform the excursion in.—Monmouth is the resting-place for the night. Having no party to join us in the expence, and the limits of our time being nearly at an end, we proceeded inwards by land; and from Ross to Monmouth passed through a pleasant cultivated tract of country, at intervals enjoying a view of the river winding through the vale, and many charming prospects of the neighbouring hills and dales. The village of Whitchurch, which we passed, is most romantically situated in a narrow glen, encompassed by craggy precipices rearing their heads high above each other in singular and wild disorder. There are several pretty houses in this village, inhabited by genteel families; and the situation is peculiarly pleasant and sequestered.

Monmouth was formerly surrounded by a wall, and had a castle of considerable strength, of which some remains are yet standing. It is supposed to have been built before the Conquest,

and during Stephen's wars was sometimes in possession of each of the contending powers. It was also the birth-place of Henry V. There is a handsome Gothic church with a fine tower in Monmouth, and the town-house and new gaol are both spacious and of good appearance; indeed upon the whole the town is an agreeable-looking place, containing many respectable families who mingle much together, and form a very agreeable society.—The county of Monmouth, though broken into a variety of hills and vallies, is fertile, and in most parts beautiful. Till the reign of Charles I. it formed a part of Wales; and in several places the Welsh language still continues to be spoken by the country people, though they all understand and can converse in English. Geoffrey of Monmouth was a remarkable historian of his day; but his works, according to the spirit of the times, partake much of credulity, superstition, and falsehood.

On quitting Monmouth we ascended a very long and rather steep hill, from the top of which there is a truly glorious and extensive prospect: and soon after entered on a wild and dreary tract, which continued till we drew near to Chepstow, which place we reached to breakfast; but were disappointed in our expectations of seeing Piercefield, which only on certain days is exhibited to strangers. The bridge at Chepstow is constructed of wood, erected on piles, and thrown across the Wye: its flooring being so disposed, that it rises and falls with the tide; at all times a very strong one, but occasionally swelling even to the height of seventy feet.

The castle, now partly in ruins, has been built in the Norman taste; and is seated on an almost perpendicular rock, commanding the town and river. It was formerly deemed of great importance, and was besieged by Oliver Cromwell. The principal entrance is by a lofty gateway of a venerable appearance, and many of the mouldering towers display great marks of strength and grandeur.—The church is a curious old building, formerly belonging to a benedictine priory. There is a good market in Chepstow, and the place is the residence of many genteel families.

Proceeding to the New passage, five miles from Chepstow, we were compelled to remain there during the remainder of the day by contrary winds, which blew a perfect hurricane. Though we could have got across the channel in a small boat ourselves, the carriage could not be conveyed till the tide answered for the larger barges: we therefore remained where we were; and after spending some time in walking along the side of the dark-rolling Severn, and admiring the beauty of its opposite rich and fertile shores, we were entertained for the rest of the evening by a Welsh harper, who frequently attends the guests in the house, and who played really very agreeably a vast variety of

his beautiful national airs. In the morning we arose betimes; and all things being in readiness for departure, we were shortly wafted across the channel: from whence, as soon as we had breakfasted at the excellent hotel upon the Bristol side of the water, we proceeded to that large, opulent, and ugly city. Thence with all convenient speed we pursued our way to Bath; where for the present we closed our wanderings, after having spent very nearly five months upon a tour which afforded us much and constant gratification in its performance. And now, kind reader, if thou hast journeyed with me thus far with a tolerable share of patience, and has derived any pleasure from my *Gleanings*, I shall consider all the trouble I have had in transmitting them to paper fully compensated; and if a generous public, ever willing to overlook the deficiencies of a well-meaning humble scribbler like myself will deign to grant this volume an approving smile, it will afford the author real satisfaction, and encourage the same endeavours in future to afford them equal entertainment in a second sheaf of the Gleanings of a Wanderer, in the course of another tour through various parts of the British empire. But till the success of the present is ascertained, no more shall be said upon that head, and as little thought on it as possible, by the culprit who thus stands fearfully awating the awful sentence of the *critics* and the public in general; to the former of whom no other address shall be offered than the simple request, that as they are potent, so they will be merciful.

Account of Distances between the Stages visited in the Course of these Excursions through Part of England, Scotland, and North Wales.

	Miles.		Miles.
York to Boroughbridge . . .	18	Cupar-in-Angus to Forfar . .	18
Boroughbridge to Leeming Lane	12	Forfar to Brechin	18
Leeming Lane to Catterick Bridge	11	Brechin to Laurencekirk . . .	11
Catterick Bridge to Greta Bridge	14	Laurencekirk to Stonehaven .	14
Greta Bridge to Brough . . .	18	Stonehaven to Aberdeen . . .	15
Brough to Penrith	12	Aberdeen to Old Meldrum . .	18
Penrith to Carlisle	18	Old Meldrum to Turriff . . .	16
Carlisle to Longtown	10	Turriff to Banff	10
Longtown to Langholm . . .	14	Banff to Cullen	12
Langholm to Hawick	22	Cullen to Fochabers	12
Hawick to Selkirk	11	Fochabers to Elgin	11
Selkirk to Bankhouse	15	Elgin to Forres	12
Bankhouse to Middleton . .	12	Forres to Nairn	11
Middleton to Edinburgh . . .	12	Nairn to Fort George . . .	10
Edinburgh to Queensferry . .	9	Fort George to Inverness . .	6
Across the Forth	2	Inverness to the Fall of Foyers	20
North Queensferry to Kinross	15		
Kinross to Perth	15		469
Perth to Cupar-in-Angus . .	15		

	Miles.		
Stonehaven to Bervie	9	Carlisle to Wigton	11
Bervie to Montrose	12	Wigton to Keswick	16
Montrose to Arbroath	14	Keswick to Low-wood inn	18
Arbroath to Dundee	17	Low-wood to Kendal	13
Dundee to Perth	14	Kendal to Burton	11
Perth to Crieff	18	Burton to Lancaster	11
Crieff to Stirling	20	Lancaster to Garstang	11
Stirling to Carron	11	Garstang to Preston	11
Carron to Glasgow	29	Preston to Machester by Chorley	35
Glasgow to Paisley	11	Manchester to Altrincham	12
Glasgow to Hamilton	14	Altrincham to Northwich	11
Glasgow to Dunbarton	14	Northwich to Chester	12
Dunbarton to Luss	10	Chester to Mold	12
Luss to Arroquar	10	Mold to Ruthin	11
Arroquar to Cairndow	12	Ruthin to Llangollen	13
Cairndow to Inverary	12	Langollen to Oswestry	12
Inverary to Dalmally	16	Oswestry to Shrewsbury	13
Dalmally to Tyndrum	12	Shrewsbury to Church Stretton	13
Tyndrum to Killen	21	Church Stretton to Ludlow	16
Killen to Kenmore	16	Ludlow to Leominster	12
Kenmore to Dunkeld	18	Leominster to Hereford	12
Dunkeld to Perth	16	Hereford to Ross	14
Perth to Stirling, by Auchterarder,	34	Ross to Monmouth	12
Stirling to Lanark	31	Monmouth to Chepstow	15
Lanark to Douglass-mill	12	Chepstow to the New Passage	5
Douglass-mill to Elvan-foot	15	New Passage across	3
Elvan-foot to Moffat	14	To Bristol	12
Moffat to Lockerby	15	Bristol to Bath	12
Lockerby to Gretna-green	16		
Gretna to Carlisle	14	Total,	1305

Hints to the traveller who may pass by the above route through the highlands of Scotland.—If you travel with post-horses, you will meet with very good ones the whole way from York to Inverness and Glasgow; from which latter place you must then hire a pair to carry you through the highlands, as none are kept at the inns on the road.—Be under no apprehension as to your accommodations in those less-frequented regions: the inns are in general very decent, the people civil and ready to oblige. If you travel thither in the season, you will have abundance of game wherever you may stop.

At Luss you will always find a boat ready to row you all about Loch-Lomond, and the hire does not exceed a few shillings.—If you choose to go by water from Cairndon to Inverary, a boat may be instantly procured, and the expence will not exceed half a guinea.—At Killen also you will seldom be disappointed if you wish to go down the loch to Kenmore, and the fare is much the same as above.

The roads in these highland districts are excellent; and by no means dangerous, as some tourists have represented them to be.

THE END.

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TO THE

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